Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-169 *31 August 1994*

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Jamaican Minister Opens Caricom Meeting, Discusses Haiti

FL3008210094 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Caribbean Evening News" program]

[Text] Caricom [Caribbean Community] policymakers and security personnel are holding high-level talks in Jamaica. They are examining Resolution 940, which was adopted by the UN Security Council to deal with events in Haiti. The opening session was addressed by Jamaican Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Paul Robertson. Robert Royer has more:

[Begin recording] [Royer] The two days of high-level talks are expected to give a clear indication of just what role and contribution Caricom states will adopt in dealing with the Haitian political crisis. The talks follow closely on the heels of meetings involving military and police personnel in Puerto Rico and Jamaica. UN Resolution 940 last month reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the restoration of the constitutional authority in Haiti.

[Robertson] The next two days will, therefore, be devoted to clarifying the legal, technical, financial, and any military relations which arise from Resolution 940.

[Royer] Resolution 940 (?allows for) the formation of a multilateral force to invade Haiti. Caricom states are expected to play a supporting role after the initial invasion. Dr. Robertson hopes that won't be needed.

[Robertson, in progress]...even though it is our understanding that the UN secretary general is making determined efforts to seek through diplomatic channels to secure a peaceful implementation of Resolution 940. However, if the de facto regime continues to flaut the wishes of the international community, then they—collectively and individually—bear full responsibility for the consequences.

[Royer] An American team, led by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, as well as Canadian officials, are expected to join the Caricom policymakers on Tuesday. The meeting agenda is restricted to Haiti, while the situation in Cuba looms large. [end recording]

Caricom To Coordinate Efforts To Remove Haitian Military

PA3008222494 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2040 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Kingston, 30 Aug (DPA)—The countries of the Caribbean Common Market [Caricon.] have agreed with the United States "to coordinate efforts" to remove Haiti's de facto military government, including the use of military forces to attain this goal.

The announcement was made this afternoon by Erskine Sandiford, Barbadian prime minister and Caricom president, coinciding with the announcement by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali who said the attempts to reach a diplomatic solution to the Haitian crisis had failed.

Sandiford told the press "officials representing the Caricom member countries will meet shortly with U.S. Government officials to coordinate and make the necessary arrangements" to implement UN Security Council Resolution 940, which demands the removal of Haiti's military government and the restoral of constitutional authority.

The Caricom spokesman said Argentina and the UK have already agreed to participate in a multinational force that could take military actions against the Haitian regime.

Meanwhile, Jamaican Foreign Minister Paul Robertson has said the Caricom forces, which he described as a "small regiment of approximately 266 men," will not participate in the initial invasion.

Robertson has said the regiment will only participate in the operations that will be conducted once the invasion and the peacemaking process have been completed and once the dismantling of the military forces and the deployment of the UN mission to Haiti have begun. These requisites, Robertson added, will be part of the reconstruction operation.

Robertson has said Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago will form the Caricom force. Guyana, the Bahamas, and Antigua and Barbuda, three other Caribbean nations that have a military capability, are conducting domestic talks to decide their final position.

Strobe Talbott, U.S. assistant secretary of state, has praised the Caricom position, saying it reflects the sense of growing urgency to restore democracy in Haiti.

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Cuba

Robaina To Attend Panamanian Presidential Inauguration

FL3008144894 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Following a three-day official visit to Brazil, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina will travel today to Panama, the last leg of his tour of five Latin American countries which began on 18 August. Robaina will join the Cuban delegation to Ernesto Perez Balladares' presidential inauguration on Thursday. To date six heads of state and 34 delegations have confirmed their participation.

On 29 August, Robaina met in Minas Gerais with Brazilian President Itamar Franco, to whom he relayed a letter from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro announcing Cuba's decision to sign the Tlatelolco Treaty proscribing nuclear weapons. Robaina's tour of Latin America, consisting of trips to Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, and Panama, seeks to divulge the true reality of Cuba.

Radio Cites Panamanian President-Elect on Restoring Ties

FL3008215694 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1954 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Panamanian President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares said on 30 August that his government will restore diplomatic relations with Cuba on 1 September. Relations have been limited to a business office since 1990. Perez Balladares told the press that Panamanian Ambassador to Uruguay Rafael Moreno Saavedra will soon be appointed chief of the diplomatic mission in Havana. President Guillermo Endara's government reduced relations with Cuba to a minimum following the U.S. invasion of Panama on 20 December 1989, even though business exchanges continued. Cuba buys approximately $300 million in supplies from Panama yearly and has business ventures in Panama, including businesses promoting tourism.

Robaina on Panamanian Position on Rafters

PA3108030294 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Report by Zenaida Costales from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina is in Panama to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Panamanian President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares. Talking to journalists, Robaina discussed future diplomatic relations between Cuba and Panama:

[Begin Robaina recording] Relations between Panama and Cuba have been and are good. It is the purpose of Panama and Cuba to keep improving those relations. This guideline is the one with which we should work. The present and future governments alike have made statements regarding progress in this direction. There will be no limitations on our part. We can clearly distinguish between the interests of a government and personal remarks. [end recording]

Another of the questions asked of the Cuban foreign minister concerned Cuban emigration and the willingness of certain Latin American countries, including Panama, to receive rafters:

[Begin Robaina recording] This subject is an interesting one, but statements by governments are different from one another. Not all of them are interpreted the same way. Most of them agree with Cuba's strictly legal viewpoint. For instance, Cuba praises Bolivia's remarks but cannot agree with the remarks by other countries, for instance, the remarks of the country where I am now, specifically, by the foreign minister of the government about to assume office. He does not appear, regrettably, to grasp the true nature of the problem. He even stimulates and reinforces a position broadly criticized in Cuba, as well as by the United States and international communities.

I say he missed the true nature of the problem, because his remarks do not help deter illegal departures; this reason is why I have said his position is very different from those of many other sectors in the area. [end recording]

Taiwanese Vice President Li Yuan-zu, who will also attend the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Perez Balladares, arrived in Panama at the same with Robaina, who interrupted his tour of South America to attend the event.

Mexican Consulate Receives 300 Visa Requests on 29 Aug

PA3008145494 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] The Mexican Consulate in Havana yesterday received requests from about 300 Cubans who want to join relatives living in Mexico. Less than 10 of those Cubans, however, met the requirements to obtain visas.

There are five requirements Cuban citizens must meet to enter Mexico legally. The National Immigration Institute under the Government Secretariat explained that the requirements for Cuban immigrants include their having a valid passport, an exit permit from the Cuban Government, and official documentation proving family ties with a Cuban who is a Mexican citizen currently residing in the country.

Costa Rican Official Cited on Ability To Accept Immigrants

PA3008153894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1427 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] San Jose, 30 Aug (PL)—The Costa Rican Government has reiterated to the United States it is in no

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position to grant the mass entrance into its territory of illegal Cuban emigrants, Deputy Foreign Minister Rodrigo Carreras has announced.

In statements to local television Channel 7, Carreras denied press reports citing sources in the U.S. Administration that said Costa Rica is among the Central American nations willing to accept illegal Cuban emigrants.

Carreras stressed: We could study the option of temporarily accepting some of those who have relatives in Costa Rica or in the United States, but we cannot oversee a mass immigration.

Envoy in Nicaragua Discusses Upcoming U.S. Talks

PA3008200594 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Interview with Pedro Lobaina, charge d'affaires in Nicaragua, by news director Manuel Espinoza in Managua; date not given; from the "Extravision" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Espinoza] The beginning of discussions between the U.S. Government and the Cuban Government has been announced. What is the Cuban Government's position?

[Lobaina] Fidel has said we are willing to discuss any issue, even the topic of migration, if the United States so chooses. In reality, however, Cuba's position is that exclusive negotiations on migration issues will not provide any in-depth solutions to the problem. Such solutions must be rooted in a discussion of the true normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States.

[Espinoza] I understand that in 1984 an agreement was signed between the governments of Cuba and the United States on Cuban emigration precisely to avert these kinds of problems. How come this problem has worsened?

[Lobaina] These illegal emigrations increased because the illegal emigrants are being received in the United States as if they are heroes, and, immediately within a year, they are granted work permits or much-desired green cards, to which many emigrants in other Latin American countries aspire.

There has been mass emigration since 1990, when there were 467 illegal emigrants. In 1991 there were 1,997; in 1992 there were 1,511; in 1993 there were 4,208; and in 1994, up until 22 July, there were 4,092. This makes a total of 13,275 illegal departures. Nevertheless, in this same period of time Cuba has dissuaded or prevented 37,801 people from illegally leaving Cuba.

This is the problem that Cuba has raised: It cannot serve as a border guard for the United States, and it is up to the United States to adopt serious measures to prevent these illegal departures.

[Espinoza] While visas have decreased, illegal departures have increased, correct?

[Lobaina] Exactly. In no way can Cuba be accused of encouraging illegal departures. Cuba would like to have a negotiated agreement on this. Cuba would like to get to the root of the problem. The fact is this: Amid the economic difficulties that everyone knows we are experiencing, the economic blockade encourages these illegal departures. These are economic emigrants.

[Espinoza] Therefore, the recent measures adopted by President Clinton hardening the blockade against Cuba are going to stimulate additional departures.

[Lobaina] That is exactly our position. Moreover, people who leave illegally are being deceived. They are victims—double victims—because they are victimized by the blockade the United States has maintained for more than 35 years, while also being victimized by the intoxicating propaganda.

[Espinoza] What conditions has Cuba set in holding these negotiations?

[Lobaina] None. Cuba has not imposed conditions of any kind. The Cuban Government has said it is ready to sit down at the negotiating table with the U.S. Government to discuss any issue, whether it is the blockade or any other issue, such as Guantanamo Naval Base, which is another topic that we have raised as an issue to be discussed in these negotiations. This is because this naval base is illegally being occupied against the will of the Cuban people.

[Espinoza] What about the U.S. bid to discuss the domestic situation, the political situation within Cuba?

[Lobaina] That is unacceptable to the Cuban people. It is unacceptable for the independence and self-determination of our peoples. The problem of democracy in Cuba is a problem solely of the Cuban people, and it is a problem that the Cuban people will resolve. The Cuban people support the revolutionary government, which is a legitimate government—the government that was in fact elected in last year.

GRANMA Calls For 'Reflection' in Conflict With U.S.

PA3008134594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0947 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 30 Aug (PL)—This could be the moment for reflection to rid ourselves of old and hostile prejudices, as well as to accept without arrogance or audacity the Cuban people's right to build their own destiny, the Cuban newspaper GRANMA states today.

In a commentary entitled "There Is Still Time for Reflection and Sense," the morning paper notes this is a time to reflect on "the cauldron which (the U.S. Administration) has created in Guantanamo and the dangers that could be caused by an abrupt and desperate situation."

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For the newspaper, "amid the turbulent ocean waters, the time has come to find the necessary sense and political flexibility that will permit Cuba to coexist alongside the United States without interference, pressure, or aggression. [no closing quotation marks as received]

According to the commentary, the goodwill and moderation that Cuba and, in particular, President Fidel Castro have shown in handling this crisis have made possible, beyond any shadow of a doubt, the resumption of this necessary dialogue.

Beyond the selfish interests that may exist in the congressional elections this November and the 1996 presidential elections, it is up to President Clinton and his government team "to man the helm and steer toward a definitive resolution of this conflict, which benefits neither of the two countries," it adds.

While noting that the upcoming discussion of migration issues between Cuban and U.S. delegations in New York "is a positive sign that has emerged," and in announcing the hope that this discussion will open possibilities for broaching in the not too distant future problems of even more significance—issues such as the blockade—the paper says this has been the Gordian knot of our history.

In this sense, it notes that in the United States there are voices favoring a dialogue that will go beyond migration issues to discuss more substantial topics without excluding what can be achieved on this particular issue.

History, it adds, has demonstrated that there can be no real solution to the artificial crisis as long as Washington continues to treat the Cuban-U.S. conflict as a top domestic policy issue—one that is subject to the pressure of ultra-rightist exiles in Miami and to the no less exaggerated electoral coquettishness of Democrats and Republicans.

Another one of President Clinton's problems stemming from the electoral period, GRANMA notes, is not having clearly defined his administration's foreign policy, and this, it adds, has become his Achilles' heel.

In this respect, GRANMA also notes that his main advisers, who have come from a new generation of officials, have not contributed to Clinton having a consistent government platform which, even if his top priority is domestic policy, must not keep avoiding the leadership demanded by this new unipolar world marked by the complexities inherent in international relations.

Commentary: U.S. Interest in Talks 'Reasonable Sign'

FL3108011194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Unattributed commentary from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] One thing is clear: The fact that Cuban and U.S. officials will discuss the illegal Cuban immigration issues this week clearly indicates that the U.S. Administration is in a pickle. This could be considered the only rational step Clinton has taken since the rafting crisis began. Washington might never have taken this step if it did not find itself between a rock and a hard place.

U.S. officials are now trying to give the impression that they control the situation, by explaining the forthcoming meeting as a consequence of so-called Cuban despair. The truth is that the Clinton government is the only trapped and desperate party in this affair. The United States is a victim of the boomerang effect of promoting Cuban immigration. Now, all of a sudden, they want to stop it. The tide of illegal immigrants has been stemmed neither by the so-called humanitarian pleas of late for the people not to take to the seas, nor the ironic and cruel measure of sending the so-called rafters to a base that just so happens to be on Cuban soil, nor the latest warnings that they would not be given refugee status.

Meanwhile, calls can even be heard from the U.S. Congress for greater flexibility when taking stands on Cuba and for a revision of that old, damaging, and inhumane blockade. Some rightly criticize Clinton for not reviewing these policies. However, they have no choice but to recognize and count on Cuban authorities no matter how much they dislike it. Some in Washington would like to suggest that Cuba is anxious for this meeting, covering for their own impotence and denying that they are the ones who are anxious for this meeting. The only reason Cuba wants this meeting is to help prevent more people from becoming victims at sea. Those victims are on the consciences of U.S. Administrations that promoted today's unwanted rafters over so many years. In any case, the fact that Washington is going to sit and hold talks on immigration issues is, at the least, a reasonable sign in the midst of so much unreason.

This is not the only medicine that is needed to cure the illness that U.S. hostility has brought on Cuba, while trying to slander the Revolution. The gun has backfired on Washington. They are the ones being questioned now. The solution rests in their hands.

Commentary Says Cuban Attitude 'Flexible' at U.S. Talks

PA3108031894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The Governments of Cuba and the United States begin talks on immigration topics this weekend in New York. Cuba has done everything possible for this meeting to be held under the least tension possible, despite the serious crisis between the two countries as a result of the illegal departures from the island, encouraged up to recently by Washington.

Cuba put across serious arguments against lifting existing departure prohibitions from the island by people

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using their own means. These departures were allowed after 12 August, provided no violence was used. This decision was the highlight of a heated period in which the United States encouraged illegal emigration, while halting formal or orderly emigrations.

In view of the increased illegal departures, which went hand in hand with tougher living conditions on the island caused mostly by the U.S. blockade, the Cuban authorities decided that the time had come to stop protecting U.S. borders. Nevertheless, the Cuban Government issued instructions to help prevent, whenever possible, the loss of human life during the exodus. Naval forces assist the so-called rafters, when needed, and bring them back to the coast if they run into problems, while forces ashore warn about tropical storms in the Florida Straits.

Havana announced on Sunday departure restrictions for rickety boats with children or adolescents on board, although according to the AFP news service, the authorities also apply the measure when old people or pregnant women try to leave. In addition to responding to a humanitarian motivation, these actions are unilateral measures Cuba takes to help reduce tensions the same way as by attending the New York meeting. Cuba upholds the firm view that the problem cannot be resolved with strictly formal immigration formulas.

While Cuba attends the New York negotiations with a proven flexible attitude, the same cannot be said about the U.S. Government, which has dictated measures to increase the blockade to the island and the island's isolation, in addition to the heightened inflamed language used by some of its highest-level members. The only exception we found was in the latest public appearance by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who ruled against the naval blockade option.

The U.S.-Cuban immigration argument has suddenly become a big issue. Cuba has stressed its commitment to a dialogue. We still have to see whether Washington is capable of emulating Cuba.

GRANMA Hopes U.S-Cuban Talks Include Major Issues

PA3108032094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 00000 GMT 31 Aug 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The Cuban daily GRANMA considers the immigration talks between Cuba and the United States this week in New York as a positive sign that opens up possibilities. GRANMA hopes that these talks will not center only on the immigration issue, but will open up the possibility of future discussions on more important issues, such as the blockade. In this sense, says GRANMA, an increasing number of people in the United States are advocating broader and more substantive talks to include more than just specific immigration issues, not withstanding the possible advances on this limited issue.

GRANMA adds that history has shown that there will not be a real solution to the crisis while Washington continues to focus on the differences between Cuba and the United States as a priority domestic policy, subject to the pressures of the ultra-right wing Cuban exiles in Miami and the no-less-significant electoral flirtations between the Democrats and Republicans.

The article, entitled "Still in Time for Reflection and Common Sense," emphasizes that beyond the sinister interests that may be put into motion between the November U.S. congressional elections and the 1996 presidential elections, it is up to President Bill Clinton and his administration to provide a final solution to this issue.

'Historic Roots' of U.S. 'Designs' on Cuba Viewed

FL3008172694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 30 Aug 94

["Our Opinion" commentary by Ariel Larramendi Villafanez from the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] A historian once said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. I bring this up because the conflict between the United States and Cuba, which some here believe stems from ideological differences evident since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution and the building of a social and economic project which differs from that mandated by the great northern power, has deeper historic roots. These roots precede Cuba's wars of independence by many years. No sooner had the United States gained its independence than it began evidencing designs on Cuba.

Over 200 years ago, in a letter dated 23 June 1783, John Adams, the second president of the United States, wrote to Robert Livingston, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, that the Caribbean islands are natural appendixes of the U.S. continent and that it is almost impossible to resist the conviction that the annexation of Cuba to the United States will be indispensable to the maintenance of the union.

In 1805, Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, and the greatest advocate of Cuba's annexation during the first decades of the 1800's, told Anthony Merry, a British minister visiting Washington, that in case of war with Spain, the United States would swiftly annex Cuba. A map of the United States drafted by the U.S. Government in 1812, years before its predatory attack on Mexico, not only included the Mexican territories it would usurp later but also Cuba as a natural extension of the United States. Remember the date, 1812. Later on, the Monroe Doctrine would come about and with it the ripe fruit or ambush theory. For more than 200 years of expansion and consolidation of the United States, the ruling class interests in that country never have dismissed the idea of eliminating Cuba's sovereignty, whether it be plain annexation, or by attaching it as a state or neocolony, as was sought by the Platt Amendment in 1902.

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Our conflict intensified following the adoption of a line of thought independent of the mandates of the northern power and its ambassador in Havana when a new generation of Cubans took power in 1951. The facts are simple, either we submit to the Plattistas [Platt Amendment advocates] and neoannexionists and become Puerto Ricans or Hispanics, with the quota of bloodshed that would entail, or we remain Cubans with the sacrifice that also entails.

He who has ears to hear, either here or abroad, better listen.

Havana Notes State Department Report on Migration Talks

FL3008150994 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] An AFP dispatch reports that on 1 September Washington and Havana will begin conversations on ways to develop the legal emigration of Cubans who want to travel to the United States. The report adds the U.S. State Department has announced that the meetings will be held at the office of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and that the U.S. delegation will be chaired by Michael Skol, the undersecretary of State for Inter-American Issues.

Commentary Lists 'Lies' of U.S. Representative Menendez

FL2908221994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Aug 94

["Reflections" commentary by Ferando Davalos from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Yesterday I received a report, datelined New York, which deserves to be read to the listeners of this commentary. The report refers to declarations by a right-wing leader in Miami, in which one can clearly see his deceitful publicity stunts. I am referring to Bob Menendez, who while acknowledging his Cuban origin, poses as a spokesman for the U.S. Government. This personality is a representative to the U.S. Congress, where he misses no opportunity to intensify and stir up differences with Cuba. In his recent declarations, I was able to point out 13 flagrant lies, which I will pass on to you:

Lie No. 1: Rafters continue leaving Cuba because they have not heard the message that they would not be allowed to enter the United States and would be sent to Guantanamo. This is false. This surprising change in U.S. policy—to not welcome illegal immigrants—represents a 180-degree turn in relation to past practices, is well known in Cuba, and was amply divulged by our press.

Lie No 2: Bob Menendez is one of the architects of the U.S. policy toward Cuba. What policy? What policy was he talking about? The ups and downs, fluctuations, contradictions, and mistakes that have recently become evident? The truth is that the United States does not have a policy regarding Cuba and he is not the center of the U.S. State Department.

Lie No. 3: The U.S. message has not reached rafters because in Cuba there is no mass communication. That is also false. There are hundreds of thousands of radios and televisions, dozens of newscasts, and even though our printed press is very limited because of paper supply shortages, the population is not prevented from hearing the clear messages of the impotence and dirty tricks of enemy radio. The problem is that over there, they have been encouraging the illegal departures, receiving hijackers as heroes, and giving automatic residency to those who arrive there by these means. Now that everything has changed, the people here still believe all this and set out on the high seas in search of the American [word indistinct] which for so many years has welcomed them with open arms.

Lie No. 4: When radio broadcasts against Cuba increase, and remittances and flights between Miami and Havana end, there will be a reduction in the number of rafters. This means they believe that by putting more weight on the country's economic burden, people will stop leaving. The emigration from Cuba is basically caused by the U.S. blockade against this country. If there are more problems with Clinton's new attitude, there will also be more emigrants. Radio broadcasts, as they have done so far, will contribute to rarefying the atmosphere and affecting the behavior of many potential emigres, encouraging them to leave.

That is not all. This man talks and poses as a spokesman for the U.S. Government. He goes on to discuss the new concentration camps for Cubans and the so-called successful negotiations with several Caribbean countries to receive rafters when so far, the response has been negative.

He continues with his lies all the way up to No. 13: Subversive radio broadcasts will cause the fortunate political change that will prevent emigration of rafters. I ask myself: What about the illegal emigres from Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and other countries, whom they cannot stop regardless of political change? That is because their reasons are economic, as are the reasons of the Cuban rafters.

He goes on to say that the U.S. Immigration policy is decided in Washington, when in reality it is being formulated in Miami; and that more than 30,000 people, hostile toward the Revolution, participated in the 5 August riots. They increase in number day by day and, he says, and who knows, someday it might reach 1 million.

This man's lies do not end here. But I would offend the intelligence and principles of those who are listening if I were to continue enumerating Bob Menendez' lies. I do not know exactly who he is trying to fool; whether it is the Cubans in Miami, the Americans in the Clinton

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Administration, or if he is just trying to fool himself like the dog that bites his own tail.

TV Cites U.S. Officials' 'Threat' to Haitian Military

FL3108013394 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] The United States has renewed its threat to the Haitian military: High-ranking U.S. officials touring the Caribbean have warned that Haiti will face a multinational invasion of over 10,000 men led by U.S. troops. Area observers consider this a White House ultimatum to the military leadership. Strobe Talbott and John Deutch, deputy secretaries of state and defense, respectively, are meeting in Kingston with leaders of Caricom—the English-speaking Caribbean Community—on the Haitian crisis. Reports indicate that seven countries will supply troops for an international force led by Washington to depose the Haitian military. Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has decided in New York to abandon the goodwill mission that was ordered to find a peaceful way out of the crisis. Butrus-Ghali said that the Haitian military rejected debating the issue and refused to receive his special envoy.

Dominican President Reportedly Agrees to Constitutional Reform

FL3008213394 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer has agreed to reform the Dominican Constitution, as Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, his leading opponent, has demanded. Observers believe that President Balaguer supports the creation of a legislative commission to write a proposal for change that would end the postelectoral crisis in Santo Domingo. President Balaguer has said that he shares the view of Pena Gomez, leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Party, that central electoral committee members must be replaced with individuals of well-known moral and intellectual character. Pena Gomez, who claims to be the victim of a colossal fraud in the 16 May elections, wrote President Balaguer to demand the appointment of a new central electoral committee and constitutional reform.

PRENSA LATINA Reports Further on Joining Tlatelolco Treaty

PA3008175894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0707 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By Victor Carriba]

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Aug (PL)—Cuba's decision to join the Tlatelolco Treaty for a nuclear free Latin America and Caribbean concludes a project undertaken more than 30 years ago.

Cuba's membership in the treaty was disclosed Monday in Brazil through a letter sent by Cuban President Fidel Castro to his colleague in that country, Itamar Franco, and this was then confirmed in Havana by Foreign Relations Ministry sources.

Simultaneously, the decision was communicated to the Mexican Foreign Ministry, the depository state of the agreement documents.

The Cuban Government's announcement highlights the island's commitment to peace in the region and its efforts to take actions that facilitate the rapprochement of the nations of Latin America and the regional goal of integration.

Likewise, it indicates that the decision to join the Tlatelolco Treaty is taking place at time when the top nuclear power in the world (the United States) has escalated its hostility toward Cuba on an unprecedented level, insisting on perpetuating its forced presence in part of the Cuban territory "where its ships (North American) travel with these kinds of weapons to Guantanamo Naval Base."

In this regard, the communique issued in Havana stressed that this problem (linked to Washington) should be addressed in the future as a condition for Cuba to remain in the Tlatelolco Treaty.

The Tlatelolco Treaty's beginnings are rooted in a proposal made by Brazil at the 17th UN General Assembly in 1962—a proposal supported by Bolivia, Chile, and Ecuador—to establish a nuclear free zone in Latin America.

Five months later, then-Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos proposed to his colleagues in those nations the signing of a joint declaration that contained an agreement "not to manufacture, receive, store, or test nuclear weapons or nuclear launching systems."

This understanding was signed in April 1963 and supported by the United Nations in November of the same year, paving the way for the holding of a series of meetings in Mexico City that led to the signing of the Tlatelolco Treaty and its two additional protocols on 14 February 1967.

After being signed by 11 nations of the region, the agreement entered in force in June 1967 when the Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) was created.

Nevertheless, two decades passed before the number of signatory states increased and world powers outside the hemisphere consented to sign the additional Tlatelolco Treaty protocols in light of the fact that they possessed nuclear weapons or had territories under their control in Latin America and the Caribbean (UK, the Netherlands, the United States, France, China, and the Soviet Union).

Once these obstacles were overcome, in August 1992 various amendments to the Tlatelolco Treaty were

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adopted, proposed by Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, allowing these nations to join.

The modifications, according to what was reported at that time, did not alter the essential goals or the spirit of the document; rather, they adapted the nuclear verification and control conditions included in the agreement by transferring them to OPANAL.

For several years and until now, Cuba has participated as an observer in meetings linked to the Tlatelolco Treaty, and it has made clear its willingness to fully join the treaty once all of the states in the region assumed their respective obligations.

Besides Cuba, other members of the treaty are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Granada, Guyana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Granadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Solidarity Convention Supports Cuba, Condemns U.S. Stand

PA3008045894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1727 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Panama City, 29 Aug (PL)—The first Solidarity and Friendship With Cuba Convention, which was held by various segments of Panamanian society, praised the Cuban people for defending their right to demand respect for their self-determination.

A document approved by the forum over the weekend underscored the integrity and dignity shown by the island in these difficult times and assured that it is not alone in Latin America.

Cuba defends with rigor its decision to be a sovereign nation it added.

Panamanians think that this action does it credit and deserves all our solidarity and fraternity, and this is why we welcomed the new Panamanian Government's decision to normalize diplomatic relations with the island, the document stated.

It added that we are sure that the normalization of relations will take place within the framework of respect and cooperation that exists between our peoples and countries.

The convention saluted the participation of an official Cuban delegation in the inauguration of President Ernesto Perez Balladares next Thursday and described this as an important step in the isthmus' foreign policy.

At the meeting, which took place at the Journalists' House in this capital, several speakers condemned the United States for trying to impose its criteria on Cuba instead of respecting its independence, self-determination, and sovereignty.

Antonio Guiteras Plant To Undergo 30-Day Maintenance

FL3008131894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Report by "Doing Radio" host Roberto Cavada and Matanzas correspondent Manolo Garcia]

[Text] [Cavada] Earlier today it was reported that the Antonio Guiteras Electric Plant had halted operations in order to conduct maintenance on its 330 megawatt generator unit. Therefore, there is a deficit of 330 megawatts which, according to plant officials, will be distributed around in order to maintain the current outage schedule. Manolo Garcia has further details.

[Garcia] I reiterate what I reported this morning. Maintenance has begun on the 330 megawatt unit which will remain off line for a month. Electric Union officials announced that pertinent efforts are being made so that other electric plants around the country cover the energy production deficit in order to uphold the current outage schedule. The specialists at Antonio Guiteras have confirmed that the main boilers will be cleaned and broken sections and cracks will be repaired. All the necessary equipment and approximately 240 workers and technicians are ready. The cost of the maintenance has been estimated at $250,000 and is expected to be completed in only 30 days after which the plant, which produces 20 percent of the national energy output, will go back on line.

Barbados

Sandiford Responds to No-Confidence Charges in Stump Speech

FL3008144294 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "Caribbean Evening News" program]

[Text] Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford of Barbados is promising to defend his record and reputation in detail before the September 6 election. In his first major address in this election campaign the DLP [Democratic Labor Party] St. Michael South candidate says he'll respond to all charges brought against him in the no-confidence motion which has in fact led to this upcoming election. Novelyn Brewster tells us more:

[Begin recording] [Brewster] It was [words indistinct] St. Michael South, Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford [words indistinct] to the strains of the party anthem.

Five minutes later at 1125 he was uttering his first [word indistinct] in his first major appearance in this election campaign. He pledged to respond fully by September 6 to all the charges brought against him in the no-confidence motion. But, according to Mr. Sandiford, last night's

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appearance was just the opening chapter. He dealt with one charge, that he lied to Barbadians. He denied this using aspects of the structural adjustment program to do so. He said the (?8) percent cut in public servants' salaries was repaid, the stabilization pact abolished, and the stabilization program with the International Monetary Fund lasted 18 months as promised.

[Sandiford] The program is achieving what we said it would achieve. Our inflation is lower. Our foreign reserves are up. Our unemployment is falling.

[Brewster] Mr. Sandiford got support from DLP candidate for Christ Church East Central (Robert Morris), who compared him to the biblical Moses who led the people out of the wilderness. And he says when this country's history is written, Sandiford will be credited with turning this economy around.

[(Morris), in progress] ...as well as Jamaica and Guyana, are experiencing a deep degree of adjustment fatigue. The people are losing motivation. And the more the [word indistinct] the people down there go. But Sandiford and the DLP in three years time have turned around this country. [applause]

[Brewster] And the DLP candidate for St. George North, (Antoinette Thompson), cautioned black Barbadians against [words indistinct] successful brothers, and challenged them to become entrepeneurs even if it means pooling resources together.

[(Thompson)] When you have the skill, but you don't have the capital, look for [word indistinct] yourself and get going.

[Brewster] Novelyn Brewster, [words indistinct] [end recording]

Opposition Leader Promises 'Vibrant' Economy

FL3008161094 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "Caribbean Evening News" program]

[Text] The opposition BLP [Barbados Labor Party] leader Owen Arthur says the he is pushing for a vibrant economy without support from the Inter-American Development Bank. He says he is confident that the country can achieve the fundametal reforms his party has planned. Mr. Arthur was speaking at the presentation of the BLP's 28 candidates for the September 6 election. The leader (?said he) suggests that the BLP seems set to win the upcoming election.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The fanfare, the orchestral music, the cheering crowds, the procession of party banners signal the arrival of BLP leader Owen Arthur. He says he wants to build a new society, with a blend of old and new in his party. As part of the rebuilding effort, he says the focus will be on the country's economy.

[Arthur] A strong vibrant export service economy, with tourism in all its facets, the off-shore financial sector and information sector [word indistinct] telephone exchange are creating a lot of jobs; and we have [word indistinct] manufacturing and agricultural sector creating more jobs (?than are present); a vibrant construction industry, a vibrant retail trade with duty-free shopping extending [words indistinct] across the country: My fundamental (?feedback) is coming to terms with the proplem of unemployment by all [words indistinct] the small business sector into the mainstream of economic life.

[Unidentified reporter] All of the candidates made short introductory speeches, but among those featured was candidate for the city (Billy Meer), and she spoke of an urban (?milieu) in [words indistinct], and a whole new way of life for the many vendors in the city.

[(Meer), in progress] ...Barbados Labor Party government will seek as a matter of urgency to establish corner vendor sites with adequate sanitary facilities in and around Bridgetown and off the highways. Existing produce markets will be refurbished and brought up to modern-day standards of retailing. Craft markets will be established in Bridgetown, Speightstown, Holetown; if you turn to page 21 of this manifesto of the Barbados Labor Party, you will see that it speaks about facilities for beach vendors.

[Unidentified reporter] The BLP's manifesto is expected to be distributed tonight at the four party meetings to be held at [word indistinct] at St. Joseph, St. Martin's and St. Philip, [words indistinct], and [word indistinct] St. Michael. [end recording]

Dominican Republic

Government Not To Send Soldiers To Join Invasion of Haiti

PA3108015594 Paris AFP in Spanish 2256 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Aug (AFP)—Dominican Foreign Relations Secretary Carlos Morales Troncoso [title as received] said today the Dominican Government will not send soldiers to join a multinational force when the time comes to invade Haiti.

Morales said it is "impossible" to send Dominican troops in an expedition against the military regime of the neighboring country and said the Dominican Republic's pledge is to ensure compliance with the UN embargo along the border. He explained his country is complying with the embargo even though it "has affected trade" between the two countries, which together occupy the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean.

According to reports from Kingston, Jamaica, four Caribbean countries have agreed with two U.S. emissaries to send troops to join the contingent that will invade Haiti.

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It was reported the two emissaries, Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Assistant Secretary of Defense John Deutch, will meet Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer in the next few hours.

U.S. Ambassador Donna Hrinak has said the two emissaries will discuss with Balaguer the Haitian crisis and domestic affairs, and they will then travel to the border to meet with Dominican military leaders and the person in charge of the 88 UN observers who are helping Dominican soldiers prevent the contraband of gasoline into Haiti.

Haiti

Army Delegation in Dominican Republic for Talks With UN

FL3008194294 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] A Haitian Army delegation has been in Dominican territory for about five days in order to negotiate with officials from the United States and the United Nations about the arrival soon in Port-au-Prince of a mediation mission that will have to negotiate the departure of the military rulers. Until now, no information on the unfolding of the negotiations or the date of the return of the delegation has filtered through. It should be pointed out that no precise reports about the composition of that delegation has been communicated to the press by the military authorities.

By the way, we have learned from a reliable source that officer Ernest Prudhomme is allegedly part of that delegation.

Cedras Tours Cities Celebrating Feasts

FL3008214794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1030 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Report by correspondent Evens Lefebvre in Leogane]

[Excerpts] General Raoul Cedras, Haitian Army commander in chief, toured Leogane with his wife and some high-ranking Haitian Armed Forces officers on 29 August on the occasion of the feast of Saint Rose of Lima, the city's patron saint. The general, accompanied by heavily armed men, stopped at the city's entrance to receive a bouquet and a welcome from several members of the Leogane branch of the Armed Revolutionary Front of the Haitian People, including spokesman Fritz Pierre-Paul. Delegation members went in turn to the Leogane subdistrict barracks, where the first citizen of the city—Mayor Lefebvre Jean-Claude—delivered an address on Leogane's economic and social problems. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

Members of the delegation had a snack, which was prepared in the barracks, before departing Leogane for the capital at 2000.

This is not the Army commander's first tour of the country: He was in Jeremie on 25 August for the feast of Saint Louis, Petit-Goave on 15 August, and Leogane on 29 August.

Aristide Spokesman Says Military Reform Top Priority

FL3008195994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The priority of the legitimate government remains complete reform in the Haitian Armed Forces, according to what Jean- Claude Martineau, spokesman for the president-in-exile, said in Washington on 29 August. Martineau asserted in this statement that judicial reform, boosting the economy, and the establishment of cordial relations between the government and the private sector constitute the main priorities of all the countries that are supporting the government-in-exile. Let us listen to his remarks:

[Begin Martineau recording, in Creole] The point to be discussed is what will be the Haitian democratic government's priorities upon its return; that is, what is to be done first and what is to be done later? Our priorities are reforms in the Army and the police, reforms in the Justice Department, boosting the economy, and establishment of relations between the government and the private sector. [end recording]

That was Jean-Claude Martineau, spokesman for the president-in-exile.

Religious Community Condemns Priest's Murder

FL3008234494 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Haiti's religious community has condemned the murder of Father Jean-Marie Vincent. The Haitian Conference of Religious People [CHR] has described the murder as unprecedented in the country's history and has blamed it on those who resist change. CHR discussed the crime at a news conference on 29 August. Rothschild Francois reports:

[Francois] The murder of Father Jean-Marie Vincent, of the Congregation of Montfortains, is a hard blow to the CHR. Organization members unanimously condemned, I quote, this odious act. The CHR blames the attack on those who resist change in the country, pointing out that Father Vincent struggled for deprived people and advocated the triumph of justice in the country throughout his life. The CHR questions the ability of police and paramedics to arrive on the scene so quickly after the murder and notes that a suspicious car loaded with armed men was noticed near Saint-Louis Roi de France, in Turgeau, where Father Vincent was shot while returning to the Montfortains residence. The CHR president also explained that Montfortain priests received many anonymous calls for information on Father Jean-Marie Vincent all day Sunday. CHR President Sister

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(Kesta Occident) said that Father Vincent's murder is aimed at the Haitian masses. The CHR leader refrained from denouncing a specific sector over this murder. [passage omitted]

CHR members call for the return of constitutional order in Haiti. They insist that the people guilty of those acts be tried before justice once the constitutional government is restored to power. The CHR president points out that association members are concerned for their safety following Father Jean-Marie Vincent's murder. [passage omitted]

Sister (Kesta Occident) added that Father Vincent's blood and the blood of all of those who are killed in Haiti should not be shed in vain. She said that the CHR wants to believe that God is not sleeping and that justice will prevail sooner or later. The CHR also initiated a fast and prayer movement to express disapproval over the situation prevailing in Haiti.

Government To Hold Civic Instruction Classes

FL3008224694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Jonassaint government will hold civic instruction classes for young people. Topics for debate include: the citizen's rights and duties; country, nation, people, homeland, culture, and national identity; the right to vote and choose; and democracy and freedom. The first class will be held at the National Theater and the Information Ministry starting on 5 September and will last five days. You can register for this class at either of the places mentioned above between 1200 and 1800 GMT. Registration ends on 3 September.

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Zedillo To Maintain Salinas Model

PA3008155594 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 29 Aug 94 p 28

[From the "Profiles" column by Alberto Tovar: "Zedillo... Then What?"]

[Text] Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, 23 August—When assuming a pessimistic outlook, one might view the presidential victory by the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] as one more indication that we will get more of the same. We must admit, however, there has been an awakening of conscience, which make us visualize a demanding Mexico.

Under the maxim: "The people get the government they deserve," the citizens who participated in the elections will now demand a better administration. Although it is premature to say the rough waters have subsided, because there are still people who have undefined positions on the results obtained so far in the elections, it can be said that the picture portends economic calm.

Certainty of Continuity

We awoke on 22 August and found the same old thing. The ghost of the elections is something of the past, and the adage of "better to deal with the devil you know" holds true. We expect to have six more years of PRI administration, which we hope will be qualitatively different.

To the good fortune of all pollsters who had only handled situations in which there was a victory by the PRI with various levels of support, it can be presumed that their predictions of stability will be fulfilled. Undoubtedly, the ruling party candidate is the one who provides the most guarantees for domestic and foreign capital.

Ernesto Zedillo has the necessary technical know-how to be able to take the reins of the country with a modified program in this respect. Also, he signifies the continuity of the Salinas model and, therefore, the protection of major interests, in addition to guaranteeing that there will be no abrupt changes in the strategy to be followed.

For the time being, all businessmen who saw in Zedillo the only guarantee of victory will be ready to support his victory in the stock market.

Internationally, political events have been assessed so well that there is talk of Mexico obtaining higher levels of investment and, consequently, receiving many of the loans that were left pending.

A Light in the Road

Although Zedillo's arrival at the presidency personifies continuity, there is hope that qualitative changes will be applied to the model.

Up until now, there has been nothing more than cosmetic progress in the market, leaving the nation's future adrift. The economic role of the state must be readjusted to prevent it from falling into anachronistic patterns of paternalism. Its sense of direction must be promoted to truly develop all segments of the population.

An essential requirement of this new challenge is to have a legislative branch that features true participation in order that the economic policy explained before the camera year after year can be truly seen in terms of the general welfare. This must be done not only to the extent that the opposition has a larger presence in terms of deputies and senators, but by maturely representing the interests of the citizens who voted the lawmakers into office.

There must also be a transformation of the concept of fiscal law, which in addition to improving its revenue-reaping benefits can also help various sectors fulfill their potential from technological, commercial, and job-generating standpoints.

A true legislative branch is required—one that wipes out absolute presidentialism, which places economic strategy at the whims of one man.

Three Movements

We hope that in the next six years the propaganda ploys and the spectacle of playing with official statistics will be replaced by a sober reality that will manifest itself in improved welfare for the people.

It is not enough to tout electoral figures that show a higher-than-expected turnout when faced with Colosio's assassination, kidnappings, and the Chiapas armed uprising. The outcome of the elections must be felt in the people's pockets and stomachs. The people will be convinced when the bonanza of the publicized First World reaches their tables; one cannot keep vacillating between the First World and one crisis after another.

Confidence will be gained little by little. For the moment, there are three fundamental aspects to the Mexican picture. The first one deals with the immediate future, depending on possible challenges by the PRD and the possibility of Mexico's being labeled a country featuring high political risk.

Second, the members of the cabinet and a short-term strategy must be defined under the often-used pseudo-technocratic term, PIGE—Immediate Program To Generate Jobs—to alleviate social tension.

Finally, the third task will be to present a development plan, which, without neglecting stability, will offer a greater amount of equal opportunity for growth.

PAN Considers 'Civil Resistance' Measures

PA3008144494 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 26 Aug 94 p 77

[Report by Ismael Romero and Alonso Urrutia]

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[Text] The National Action Party [PAN] has not discarded the possibility of organizing civil resistance measures at several institutions at which unusual activities were reported and which might have led to the alteration of election results. However, such measures "will not be carried out without juridical analysis or independently of the law, as required," which means filing legal challenges to such activities. "Any form of mobilization that takes place without having filed legal challenges first would be seeking other objectives."

During a news conference called by the party's Campaign Committee, Antonio Lozano Garcia, the party's representative at the Federal Electoral Institute [IFE], said his organization will pursue all possible means to address the 13,108 complaints filed against an equal number of polling stations.

He pointed out that the three main faults were deletions from the voter lists, more votes registered than ballots cast, and cohesion and bribery against voters. In some cases the PAN will file criminal charges for alleged electoral crimes.

Meanwhile, the PAN National Executive Council will hold a meeting this weekend to evaluate the election and discuss the political and legal course the party will take to defend the people's vote and their victory. Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, who will reportedly "be assigned to new trenches and duties," will attend the council meeting.

PAN General Secretary Felipe Calderon traveled to Leon, Guanajuato, today. It is believed Calderon will meet Vicente Fox, who yesterday criticized the position adopted by Diego Fernandez de Cevallos and PAN governors regarding the election process.

During the news conference, Lozano Garcia said his party has challenged the way officials are manipulating the Preliminary Results Program (PREP) by using incorrect information. He highlighted the fact that the results released by the program exclude the number of annulled votes and votes for unregistered candidates from the total vote figures. These votes have a true effect on the final count.

Lozano Garcia indicated that if these votes were included in the equation, the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] would not have an absolute majority. When the 882,994 annulled votes and the 46,423 votes for unregistered candidates are included, the percentages are as follows: 26 percent for the PAN; 48.5 percent for the PRI; 0.49 percent for the PPS [Popular Socialist Party], 16.51 percent for the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], 0.85 percent for the PFCRN [Cardenist Frond for National Reconstruction Party], 0.55 percent for the PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, 0.29 percent for the PDM [Mexican Democratic Party], 2.76 percent for the PT [Labor Party], and 0.94 percent for the PVEM [Mexican Green Ecologist Party].

The party's IFE representative said there was a significant delay in the flow of information between the PREP and the political parties. Lozano Garcia also denied the information disclosed by the IFE regarding the figures from a fast count conducted by the PAN (PAN 34 percent, PRI 43 percent, and PRD 12 percent).

Antonio Lozano also reported that the PAN has filed formal complaints against 13,108 polling stations nationwide, where various forms of irregularity took place. The areas with the highest number of cases are: Mexico City, where 2,340 stations were challenged; Mexico State, with 1,678 complaints; Guanajuato with 1,515; Veracruz with 865 cases; Puebla with 709; Michoacan with 560; and Tamaulipas with 562.

He added that one of the most common cases involved polling stations at which there were more votes registered and tallied than ballots cast. Lozano said he did not know precisely how many votes would be affected by the 13,108 complaints, but he underscored that the figure is large enough to decide a victory in several districts.

Such is the case of District 5 in Michoacan, District 5 in Sonora, District 4 in Tamaulipas, District 4 in Mexico State, and District 3 in Guanajuato. In some cases, where the alleged fraud is very significant, the complaints we have filed are designed to annul the election in certain districts and reverse the results in others.

He believes the problematic votes could be part of the swelling PRI vote. This will be verified when the irregularities are evaluated. He stressed that there are some cases that cannot be explained, like those stations at which more were votes tallied than ballots received.

[Text] Vote Defense Coordinator Ricardo Garcia Cervantes asked the people to present their testimony and evidence to strengthen the PAN's legal actions. He said the party could also accept evidence and testimony from the Civil Alliance.

He was asked his opinion about Vicente Fox having broken off his political strike to lead the protests in Guanajuato without the authorization of the presidential candidate or the party leadership.

Garcia Cervantes responded: We are glad, and we welcome this. He stressed, however, that the PAN will act within the law. We will take advantage of every possible legal recourse at our disposal and all rights provided under the law. We believe Vicente will be able to provide evidence and testimony.

In responding to questions about civil resistance, Antonio Lozano affirmed that Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, as PAN president, and Carlos Castillo Peraza "have said that this is something the party could use at any time; not as isolated events, however, but related to what is legally and truthfully right. Not only can we take our cause to the public squares, but also to the courts. One thing without the other would simply be a political act with a different objective."

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Lozano said the PAN is using all the legal means under the law. This does not mean it will refrain from using other forms of valid political action, as long as they are based on sound legal grounds.

Later, there would be more questions regarding Fox's position.

Fox has said Fernandez's silence is validating the electoral process. Could this have a negative effect enough to harm the PAN?

Lozano responded in this way: Vicente is experiencing what millions of Mexicans have been through. He did not realize what Diego really said. He is neither quiet nor asleep. He is at party headquarters supporting the assessment work. He will be at the National Committee meeting on Saturday. The fact that Vicente, as many other Mexicans, have no need to know and, in turn, do not know what Diego is doing is not Diego's responsibility.

In view of the press' insistence to learn more about PAN's acceptance of PRI candidate Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon's victory, Garcia Cervantes and Lozano both denied that the PAN had done this.

Furthermore, they denied having acted timidly in the aftermath of the election. We could challenge even more polling stations, but there is the issue of being able to substantiate our claims, Lozano noted.

Regarding the PRI victories in states previously governed by members of the PAN, Lozano said this was not restricted to the governorships. The losses came from government employees voting together and pressure against other voters to keep them from away from the polls. It is all part of the unfair process we have experienced.

Garcia Cervantes stressed there was a virtual media blockade against Governor Ernesto Ruffo, of Baja California, to prevent him from broadcasting his message to the people encouraging them to vote, despite the agreement reached among the 31 governors and the IFE. The Government Secretariat had to intervene in order for the media to grant him air time.

The PAN representatives reaffirmed that the election was not what it should have been in terms of a democratic process, because of the lack of equal opportunity for all of those participating in the political contest.

Commentary: 'Irregularities' Mar Electoral Process

PA3108002094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 24 Aug 94 pp 1, 12

[Commentary by Sergio Aguayo Quezada, president of the Mexican Human Rights Academy: "A Citizen's Review of the Elections"]

[Text] From a civic and nonpartisan point of view, the presidential election provides many reasons to celebrate, express regrets, and about which to think. The year 1994 has been one of the most turbulent and uncertain years of our history: war in Chiapas; the murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio; economic uncertainty; and a closed and sour electoral process.

Despite these incidents, or perhaps due to these incidents, the conditions that attracted a high number of voters to the voting stations on a day when very few serious incidents were reported were created. Regardless of the partisan sympathies of each and every one party, there are reasons to be pleased, because it opens the possibility of seriously reconstructing a political system that no longer reflects society.

There are still many reasons for dissatisfaction, however. The electoral process was clouded by the partiality of most media and certain electoral authorities due to the apparent inequality, the lack of independent controls over campaign expenditures, and the lack of efficiency shown by the prosecutor who was specially appointed to tend to electoral crimes. There is enough evidence to say the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] had undue advantages over the other contenders, and those advantages explain, at least partially, the irritation by some of the losers.

The thousands of Civic Alliance observers prepared during the electoral process a first draft on the Mexican electoral irregularities. The results are worrisome. The chaos prompted by the special polling stations in urban areas opens a very distinct possibility of having achieved a systematic "scratching" of citizens from the voters lists. Meanwhile, a known and regrettable profile resurfaced in rural areas: biased polling station authorities; violations of the secrecy of the vote; pressure on the voters; the transporting of voters; and the manipulation of results.

The number of irregularities is so high that it mars the nature of the entire electoral process. This statement irritates those circles that want nothing to cloud the winners' placid disposition. Some of them are downplaying the wrongdoings by exalting the achievements and by reasoning that, in the worst scenario, the facts fail to affect the overall results. We are talking about ethically unsustainable and politically frivolous arguments.

Perhaps all irregularities together would have failed to prevent Zedillo's victory, but the votes the PRI obtained by cheating do indeed modify the balance of forces and alter the conditions in which the transition will take place. A tangible example proves the possible impact of the violations of the electoral law.

Puebla's Sierra Negra is a rural area of difficult access. Certain localities had never been visited by opposition party representatives, much less by observers. National observers and foreign visitors compared after the elections the results in polling stations that had observers the entire day and others that did not. Although the PRI won in all of them, the number of votes for that party in the polling stations observed by the Civic Alliance dropped 30 percent.

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I am not trying to say we should deduct a percentage from the votes received by the PRI. I do feel, however, there is reason to believe that had the elections been more equitable and fair, the percentages we have today would have been different (or, vice versa, had there been less observers or party representatives at the polls, the PRI would be celebrating an even wider victory).

Therefore, we have justified reasons to remain skeptical about the Mexican electoral process. Because, logically, there will be more elections, we must seriously recommend mechanisms to clean the process. In order to do so, we must clarify a huge mystery: Were the irregularities detected part of a master plan approved by the group in power or the result of thousands of fraudulent activities carried out by small and medium local political bosses [caciques] who are tolerated by those at the top who benefit by only having to provide funds or grant privileges.

People close to Zedillo, kissing the cross, swear their candidate is determined to conduct a democratic revolution. They claim they will separate the PRI from the government, will give autonomy to electoral authorities, and punish anyone who violates the law. Will that really happen? It is possible that Zedillo and some of the men in his team are determined at this time to be good government leaders. Many who preceded them began with the same determination, which gradually diminished until they ended up like many professional politicians whose only interest is remaining in power.

If we have learned anything from the thousand and one lousy stories we have heard from government authorities, it is that we cannot believe in their good intentions. The only solution, which has been effectively used in other countries, is that the people must continue a constant, close, and permanent supervision of all government actions.

Following this logic, one of the great lessons in the 21 August elections is that in order to have truly reliable elections, it will be necessary to make our government leaders responsible for their actions. Consequently, one of the main postelectoral priorities will be ensuring those who committed electoral crimes are punished. If the 21 August elections are purged, we will confirm we are at a good beginning; otherwise, we will only be facing more of the same.

Column Views 4 Causes of PRD Electoral Defeat

PA3108004694 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 25 Aug 94 pp 1, 7

[From the "One by One" column by Pablo Hiriart: "The PRD: The Reasons. Four Basic Blunders. There Was Even Deceit"—words in italics as published]

[Text] There may by many causes of the defeat of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] in the past federal elections, but there are four causes the party cannot ignore in its unpostponable self-critical discussion:

A) It made a mistake in selecting its presidential candidate. The myth and moral strength of the first and last name of the PRD standard bearer worked in the Mexico of 1988, when ours was a closed society, both economically and politically. Back then, word spread about a firm and honest man of the best political stock who challenged a government that was stained by scandalous cases of corruption, paralyzed by a 160-percent inflation rate, without social or political sensibility, a government that offered the people no expectations other than to deepen dogmas that had stemmed from the revolution but which had become exhausted.

The country changed in six years, but the PRD candidate did not. Due to his ties to the past, he was part of the Mexico that was dying: statism; resistance to economic globalization processes; paternalism; antithesis of the worldwide phenomenon of state reform. This prevented him, personally, from formulating a credible economic and social development policy proposal. He had access in 1994 to the media, particularly radio and television, where he exhibited his considerable weaknesses when he was questioned about his specific government program. He also demonstrated he was unable to present proposals to a country that sought solutions and not problems. He also displayed a total lack of talent in the confrontation of ideas.

B) It boycotted Salinas' reforms. It campaigned in Mexico and the United States against the free trade agreement, while the majority of the people supported the signing of the agreement. It opposed the Law on Credit Institutions, which laid the foundations for the privatization of banks. It voted against the Federal Law on Economic Competition; it voted against the Law of the Bank of Mexico in the Senate, a law which would give autonomy to the bank; it voted against the Foreign Investment Law. It also voted against the Foreign Trade Law. It belittled the National Solidarity Program [PRONASOL], which brought water, sewers, electricity, education, and roads to nearly 20 million Mexicans whom it offended by calling them the regime's cannon fodder. It would end up saying late in the campaign that it supported NAFTA and PRONASOL and that it would continue the economic reforms. It was too late to be credible.

C) It played with violence. "The present cost us all a great deal: marches, strikes, sitdown strikes, demonstrations, hunger strikes." This statement is how its presidential candidate summed it up in the Plaza of the Revolution on 5 February while a multitude of people, many wearing ski masks, chanted: Revolution! Revolution! Marcos! Marcos!. The party did its utmost to support the war of the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army], demonstrating how weak its democratic convictions were and reminding citizens of the past of many of the recent converts to democracy. They made theirs the language of the "sweet terror" and the "tender fury," and it was the only party to attend the Zapatist convention, in the company of all the groups that block streets and

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the outskirts daily, leaving neighborhoods without transportation services. It set itself up alongside **Marcos** as supreme judge of those who could or could not go to the mountains to deliberate about Mexico's future: "Only the sons of bitches were excluded," the subcommander said at the end of the CND [National Democratic Convention].

D) The media deceived it. Certain media and not a few political analysts and columnists gave the party a false image of itself. They made rallies attended by 5,000 people appear to be attended by 40,000. They publicized as good ideas the party's most unpopular characteristics: the seizure of the offices of mayors; the blocking of streets and sitdown strikes; upraised fists; and hatred of the president. The PRD let itself be seduced and emphasized the mistaken strategy: confrontation. Those media and columnists actually made the party and its leadership believe they were the national conscience, supported by an enthusiastic majority. Part of the foreign media accredited in Mexico took the easy road of making those media and political analysts the spokespersons of the national reality and in this way contributed to the **trap** into which the PRD fell.

PRI Seen as 'Lesser Evil;' Voters Seen as 'Masochists'

PA3108035694 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 29 Aug 94 p 61

[Commentary by Luis Pazos, director general of the Institute for Ibero-American Integration: "Are Mexicans Masochists?"]

[Text] One foreign-born woman who has been living in Mexico for more than 20 years, has told me: "I do not understand Mexicans. They are always complaining about the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] but in the end they vote for the PRI."

This foreign-born woman observed the elections and, like many others, reached the conclusion, based on what she saw and heard voters say, that, for the first time, the elections were considerably pure, although with minor irregularities. But she still cannot understand why so large a number of Mexicans voted for the PRI. A cybernetic fraud that escaped the eyes of observers and voters? A people who decided that "better the devil you know than the one you do not know"? A party that did not do as badly as its critics say? Immature voters who let themselves be carried away by promises and mass propaganda?

People hold three positions regarding the elections.

1. There are those who do not at all regard the results as valid. The whole process is corrupt. There is a large-scale fraud. This is the position of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] leaders and several leftist "academicians" and "intellectuals," PRD followers all of them.

2. There are those who accept the results in general, but also point out irregularities. This is PAN's [National Action Party] position. Although it regarded the results as valid, it filed 13,000 protests for various types of irregularities in 13.5 percent of the voting sites throughout the country.

3. There are those who regard the elections as completely pure and take for granted that the figures represent the voters' will. This is the position of the majority of PRI followers.

My position is that there were irregularities and more will probably emerge, but that, for the time being, these are not important enough to warrant regarding the entire electoral process as defective and demanding that it be declared null and void.

Although PRI's victory was apparently overwhelming, the truth is that half the voters did not vote for this party. Due to the large number of votes cast, PRI, PAN, and PRD received more votes than in previous elections. Percent-wise, however, fewer people voted for the PRI than in its first 50 years of existence, and the percent received was nearly equal to that received in 1988.

PAN nearly doubled the number of votes received and the PRD reduced the number of votes received by almost half compared with the 1988 elections. The PRI's percent did not drop any further, because many people perceived the party had changed in the past few years, both economically and politically, and preferred to support a changing PRI, a PRI more and more tolerant toward the opposition, than an intolerant opposition, represented by the PRD, or another, represented by PAN, which they regarded as still immature to govern the country.

The PAN stood for a reasoned opposition. Most of its votes came from the middle class. Most of its voters are not fanatics of politics, but people who seek serious alternatives to improve the government.

The PRD represented the dogmatic and revengeful opposition. The most ardent members of this party were leftist intellectuals and former PRI active members of all levels who, for one reason or another, valid or not, resent the system. This opposition, although a minority, held more than 70 percent of the demonstrations in Mexico City streets during 1994.

Most Mexicans regarded the PRD's alliances with violent groups, as well as the party's threats and vengeful position, as omens of confrontations if the party won. The angry face of Cuauthemoc and the party president's radical statements elicited fear in the people. Many voters understood that Cardenas and Munoz Ledo, rather than having a working platform, wanted power both to take revenge for having been displaced and destroy what they call neoliberal reforms.

While the non-dogmatic middle class was afraid of the PRD, the lower class regarded the PRD as the old PRI followers, who opposed everything but without clear or new proposals.

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For many, the PRI represented a lesser evil, a hope for a peaceful change, albeit burdened with vice and corrupt bureaucracy and, therefore, not worse than violence and confrontation.

We can say this and other things to explain the ruling party's victory. The truth, however, is that the party won in elections that can be described, as far as can be ascertained, as democratic and with high participation. The Mexican people can be labeled masochists, but for the time being there is no reason to disqualify the elections and incite the people to confrontation and violence on behalf of democracy.

Column Looks at Future of San Angel Group

PA3008130094 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 39

[From the "Political Indicator" column by Carlos Ramirez: "The Reform of the Elites: Democracy Pending"—passages in boldface as published]

[Text] The first **effects** of the preliminary electoral balance of Sunday's election are already being felt: The San Angel Group, which emerged as a **plural** organization to ease the tension of preelectoral times and which helped President Salinas play his pro-Zedillo game, is beginning to feel pressure to dissolve. A meeting held last Monday was intended to break up the group, but **before** it issued its evaluation of the **clean** results of a **dirty** electoral process.

Given the PRI's [Institutional Revolutionary Party] **advantage** and the PAN's [National Action Party] **retreat**, neither President Salinas nor candidate Zedillo **need** the San Angel Group anymore. Moreover, the group now represents an **obstacle** to any authoritarian intentions. Therefore, the very **existence** of the group is **vital** to the republic, especially if the results of the first **returns** of electoral figures are looked at carefully: The PRI **lost** its absolute majority, which poses a question of legitimate **governability**. If Zedillo, an official **without** political sensitivity **takes control** of the political arena, the **transition** to democracy will be **derailed** and the authoritarian presidential system will be **rebuilt**.

Foreign **pressure** on the group is easily identifiable. On Monday, both inside and outside the organization, several people **requested** the dissolution of the San Angel Group. However, the San Angel Group emerged as a **democratizing** organization, and therefore its task did **not** end with the elections, but Salinas and Zedillo **need** the group's disappearance to **dissolve** along with it their own commitments to democratic opening. Zedillo's **game** is to **repeat** the Salinas experience: To turn **low** returns into an **absolute** mandate for the presidential system.

Salinas' and Zedillo's **relationship** with the San Angel Group will give some **indication** on whether the outgoing and incoming presidents will lean toward post-electoral forgetfulness or respect for their democratization commitments. The **context** must not be ignored: The **mandate** of the vote was in favor of a **transition**, not political **conquest**. The electoral reaction shows a political panorama that is **not in keeping** with the meaning of the vote: A euphoric PRI, even though it lost ground and could **not** even match the 50.3 percent obtained in 1988; a PAN in **disarray** because of the irresponsibility of its presidential candidate, who **retired** into his private businesses when only 40 percent of the polling stations had been counted; and a PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] in a process of social **mobilization**.

Within this context, the **tasks** of the San Angel Group are **clear**:

1. To conduct a **critical** evaluation of the elections.
2. **To redirect** the PRD's political activism.
3. **To draw** the PAN into democratization issues.
4. **To force** the PRI to pay attention to and, above all, **understand** Sunday's vote.
5. To organize a **pluralistic** National Convention for a Democratic Transition **before** Zedillo's inauguration.
6. **To pressure** for a **real** electoral reform so that the PRI government, which with Salinas **obtained** 50.3 percent of the votes and Zedillo 47 percent, can **no** longer orchestrate electoral processes that **harm** the opposition and **benefit** the PRI.
7. **To develop itself** into state organizations, but **not** into a party.
8. To turn the San Angel Group into a **mouthpiece** for both the government and political parties in favor of a **transition** toward democracy.
9. **To recoup** the pluralistic proposal of the 20 Commitments for Democracy that all of the candidates approved and Zedillo **signed** prior to the elections.
10. **To prevent** the **postponement** of democratization—which **mobilized** millions of Mexicans and allowed the **deactivation** of the outbreaks of violence in Chiapas—by a euphoric PRI that won the elections but **lost** an absolute majority.

The **worst** interpretation that can be made of Sunday's election results would be the **cancellation** of the issue of a transition toward democracy. The **maturity** of the voters **prevented**—or perhaps just postponed—a **clash** between political factions. With only 47 percent of the vote, the PRI lost its **hegemony** to the point that the opposition **came back to life** in important states of the republic. The main **significance** of the regional vote compels one to think of the **urgency** of the transition to democracy: The vote **deprived** the PRI of political control of the country.

[Text] Nevertheless, if society reacted Sunday with a vote of **fear**—which the PRI **encouraged** just to win votes and not to guide democratization—the great political **question** lies in identifying political and social **forces** that can **push** for democratic transition. Based on historical **experience**, the great political reforms have been defined and directed by the political **elites**. Therefore, the San Angel Group has the function, together with similar groups, to participate in **reforming the democratic elites**. In reality, an attempt is being made to **prevent** the PRI from returning to its autocratic **ways**.

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The problem lies in the fact the political **elites** have not yet decided to accept their social **role**, as can be seen in the **fearful** attitude assumed by some members of the San Angel Group. The **virtue** of the San Angel Group was its nonpartisan **plurality** and its social **diversity**. It included political leaders **outside** of their partisan commitments, politicians who went **beyond** their parties, intellectuals who **reflected** socially on the short-term, officials and former officials who **utilized** plural political openings, and union leaders with **representation** at the grass-roots level.

The close electoral **balance** of Sunday's election **demands** that the political elites decide to **participate** in leading the **transition** to democracy—a transition the Mexicans want, but of which they are also afraid. Otherwise, 65 percent of the people—as PRI leaders **dreamed**—would have voted for the party. The **risks** are in sight: The Chiapas conflict may become **widespread**, Zedillo may become **Salinasized** [Salinice], the PRI may **forget** the electoral figures, the PAN may **reach accords** and offer the support of its electoral base to Zedillo, and the democratiza'ion **mandate** of the vote be may simply **forgotten**.

Cuba's Castro Congratulates President-Elect Zedillo

PA3108045794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0419 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Cuban President Fidel Castro today congratulated Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon on his victory in the recent presidential elections in Mexico and wished him "great success" in his new position.

"On behalf of the people and Government of Cuba, I wish to cordially congratulate you and sincerely wish you great success in your new position of responsibility," Castro stated in his message to Zedillo.

Ernesto Zedillo, nominated by the ruling Institutional Revolutional Party, won the 21 August presidential elections, at the same time federal [words indistinct].

The Chamber of Deputies must become an Electoral College in November to confirm the presidential election's results and designate Zedillo president-elect. Zedillo would then assume office for the 1994-2000 six-year term.

In the message addressed through the Cuban Embassy in Mexico, Castro reiterated his wish for the well-being of Mexico, a nation for which, he said, "we feel deeply grateful for its traditional and firm solidarity with Cuba, a nation whose unchanging foreign policy is based on the defense of the principles of non-intervention and respect for the people's self-determination."

Government Establishes Family Reunification Plan for Cubans

PA3108022094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2311 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 30 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Mexican and Cuban married couples without children will have to have been married for at least one year before they can emigrate to Mexico.

As part of the Family Reunification Plan, the Mexican Government has decided Cuban emigrants, married to Mexicans, are eligible for consideration under this plan if the wedding took place before August 1993.

Approximately 400 Mexican and Cuban couples got married in 1993. According to the Mexican Consulate, 100 marriages have been reported in 1994.

Mexico will receive for the first time Cubans who wish to be reunited with their families, but the families must take on the economic responsibilities of the emigrants in accordance with the initiative announced last week.

Approximately 500 people visited the Mexican Consulate, located in the neighborhood of Miramar, between Friday and Tuesday to request information or to initiate the procedures for acceptance in Mexico.

Only 25 applicants have met all the requirements demanded by the Mexican authorities [words indistinct]. Approximately 150 people visited the consulate on 26 August; the number increased to approximately 300 on 29 August and decreased to approximately 100 on Tuesday.

The authorities are asking the applicants to present their valid passport and departure permit issued by Cuban authorities. They must also present a legal document proving the direct family tie with a resident in Mexico.

The family member in Mexico must also write a letter inviting the applicant to Mexico and put in writing his willingness to take on the economic responsibility for the members of his family requesting the visa.

Mexican Ambassador Carlos Tello Macias has said that the plan is in accordance with a permanent policy and that there are no limits to the number of requests submitted or a deadline to submit them.

The Mexican Family Reunification Plan comes as the largest number of Cuban illegals, since 1980 when 125,000 emigrants left for the United States, is leaving the island.

Business Leader Says Technology 'Main Challenge'

PA2608213394 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 25 Aug 94 p 28

[Report by Jose de Jesus Guadarrama H.]

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[Text] Andres Cohen Barki, president of the Technological Development Commission of the National Association of the Processing Industry (CANACINTRA), says that among the next administration's main challenges will be the breaking of the vicious circle that is fostering "the underutilization of funds" available for the technological modernization of businesses.

Within this context, many businessmen and researchers have agreed that among the leading challenges facing the Zedillo administration is "the encouraging of industrial and technological development by establishing parallel interests and criteria among government, production, research, and financial sectors."

The business sector also has noted the urgency of truly distancing itself from "stubborn vicious circles" to guarantee a different atmosphere over the next six years which will allow businesses to finally take off toward modernization and/or technological adaptation.

Among the results of the sluggishness and bottlenecks the current administration failed to deal with properly, the businessmen list: a total failure to establish risk capital; a lack of flexible loans; noncompetitive interest rates; the nonexistence of fiscal incentives for technological development; and a lack of interest in locating areas of competition to which the country could devote its efforts.

Cohen Barki said funds available for the technological modernization of businesses, whether sufficient or not, are being underutilized due to the many loan restrictions imposed by the main banks [banca de primer piso].

This underutilization, he explained, has been a key factor in hindering industrialists who are trying to get on the modernization bandwagon, particularly because access to existing financial support, despite its availability, is limited for many microbusinesses, small businesses, and medium-sized businesses.

Therefore, he said, it will be necessary to coordinate mechanisms to finance technology and thereby reduce dependency on commercial banks, encourage the formation of risk capital, and other actions that should be considered as part of an overall policy of technological promotion and industrial development.

Meanwhile, Julio A. Millan, president of Consultores Internacionales and director of Banco de Tecnologias, said the technological challenge for the incoming administration entails a series of elements without which Mexico will be hard put to raise its competitiveness as it approaches the 21st century.

Therefore, he added, we must first acknowledge the business sectors' considerable backwardness in the area of "technological adaptation" and the nation's ability to promptly deal with this backwardness.

In keeping with this concept, Millan explained, it is necessary to identify areas within the market in which technological modernization will be applicable in terms of competitiveness with the United States, the rest of Latin America, and the Pacific Basin.

Changes to Import Tax Law Affect Canadian, U.S. Products

PA2608215494 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 19

[Text] The Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat [SECOFI] has issued a decree to reform the rates included in the General Import Tax Law and to stipulate the 1994 rate applicable for goods coming from the United States and Canada in keeping with NAFTA stipulations.

It mandates that the new changes affect articles included under NAFTA's 32 tariff categories. These articles include men's, women's, and children's shoes, athletic shoes, and sandals, all of which will pay a tariff of 20 percent per pair.

The appendix of the decree mandating the 1994 rate applicable for products coming from North America included in the 32 tariff categories—of which four are tax exempt—also will be reformed. The remaining categories will pay rates between 16 percent and 17.6 percent.

SECOFI also issued another decree, by which the rates included in the General Import Tax Law will be reformed, to support the competitiveness program for cultural material and equipment.

This decree covers 24 tariff categories, which include articles such as upright and grand pianos, musical instruments, engravings, stamps, lithographs, and books, as well as others that are tax exempt. The tariff modifications published in the Official Gazette of the Federation go into effect today.

Official on Relations With Pacific Rim Countries

PA2608213194 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 20

[Report by Miguel Angel Barragan]

[Text] Veracruz, 23 August—We could establish coinvestments with Pacific Rim countries like Singapore and Korea in order to modernize our entire port infrastructure, Hector Cardenas Rodriguez has said.

The Foreign Secretariat's coordinator of the Mexican Commission for the Pacific Rim added that, in exchange, we could send coffee, citrus fruits, and tropical fruits, especially from Veracruz, to Japanese and Korean markets.

He noted that the Pacific Rim "is no longer the area of the future but of the present," as it produces more than 50 percent of the world's trade. In the past few years, Mexico has made great efforts to strengthen its relations with the Pacific Rim countries."

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Japan is our second- or third-ranking commercial partner and one of the main investors in Mexico, Cardenas Rodriguez said. He added that this is a very important project because they are working to get Pacific Rim businessmen to invest in the modernization of the nation's entire port infrastructure.

The possibilities, he explained, are quite extensive, especially for coinvestment production programs in Mexico; there are many assembly plants in Japan and North Korea.

On how the Pacific Rim countries view Mexico, the Foreign Secretariat official asserted that the Free Trade Agreement "had lured" these nations closer because they know that Mexico, together with the United States and Canada, is part of the biggest and most powerful market in the world.

He said that this is why Korea, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand are increasing their investments or coinvestments in our country.

On the topic of Mexico's trade balance with Pacific Rim countries, Cardenas Rodriguez said in some cases the balance shows a deficit but in others, thanks to our efforts, the balance is in our favor.

The balance with Japan "is favorable to us because not only do we sell them manufactured products and raw material, we also sell them oil."

"We are negotiating" to sell meat to Japan "because there are several internal regulations that have to be met and certain conditions that we have to study."

The general coordinator of the Mexican Commission for the Pacific Rim insisted that Japan is a great potential market for our country's agricultural produce.

"We have a great opportunity to sell tropical fruits to Japan. This is the time to do so," he added.

Commentary Views APEC, Membership Isssue

PA2608221194 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO (ANALISIS Supplement) in Spanish 23 Aug 94 p 3A

[Commentary by Bernardo Olmedo Carranza]

[Text] Within the context of what is known as the Pacific Rim, the so-called Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, better known as APEC, groups 17 economies, which according to specialists are countries with the greatest growth. This is of interest in view of the fact that Mexico has belonged to this organization since November 1993.

In addition to our country, APEC has partners like Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, ROK, Chile (which will join in November), PRC, United States, Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand, and Taiwan.

To begin with, this group carries great weight due its international importance. According to 1989 data, APEC partners account for more than one-third of the world population (38 percent), although it should be noted that the PRC alone is responsible for more than one-half of this total, in other words, 1.11399 billion people of a total of 2.0164 billion. (Information from the Mexican Pacific Rim Commission, Foreign Relations Secretariat, taken from Judyth de Leon. The Pacific Rim, in the Stock Exchange, Number 8, August 1994, pp 58-63—EL FINANCIERO editor's note.) Mexico participated with 4.2 percent of the organization's population, even though Mexico accounts for only 1.6 percent of the world's population.

APEC members represent 32 percent of the world's nations, but only four countries—Australia, Canada, and the United States—add up to 84 percent of that area. Our country represents 4.5 percent of the total area of APEC partner countries but 1.5 percent of the world total.

The APEC's GDP adds up to $10 trillion, compared to a world GDP of nearly $20 trillion—in other words, APEC partners account for 50 percent. Nevertheless, only two countries, the United States and Japan, comprise almost 80 percent of APEC's GDP and 40 percent of the world's GDP. Mexico participates with 1 percent of APEC's GDP.

Another interesting indicator is the per capita GDP. The average for the 17 APEC partners has been $7,841 a year, which is about double the world average of $3,980 per person. Nevertheless, important differences spring to light, such as while Japan has an average annual per capita GDP of $23,810, the PRC averages $350 and Indonesia averages $500. In our country the average GDP per capita is $2,010 a year, which corresponds to a little less than 10 percent of that of the highest, Japan, or four times that of Indonesia.

From this one can discern that there are big differences and extreme inequalities among APEC partners. These are countries with very different economies, and if the organization, as it is stressed, presents great economic dynamism and power, then this is basically due to the importance of only two economies, those of the United States and Japan, whose overall figures distort averages and mask complex and different situations. This does not mean that everything mentioned is not valid, even though severe inequalities, or asymmetric situations as they are called today, stand out.

It is within this context that Mexico is now showing a particular situation of a clear economic downtrend, shall we say recession, which could serve as a reason to question our entry into this organization but—equally so—the entry of other countries.

Nevertheless, there seems to be a common thread in developing APEC partner countries: a recognized and even prized official policy of broad opening to world economy.

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COECE Warns Venezuela Endangering G-3 Viability

PA2808180694 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 26 Aug 94 p 19

[Report by Lourdes Gonzalez Perez]

[Text] Members of COECE [Coordinator for Foreign Trade Business Organizations] have warned that the start-up of the Group of Three (G-3) Free Trade Agreement is in danger by saying that Venezuela is applying economic measures that hinder the agreement signed with Mexico and Colombia. COECE members cited as an example Venezuela's currency exchange controls, which are mandating the use of permits that run contrary to free trade.

They said Mexican suppliers in Venezuela currently are unable to collect between $30 million and $50 million in money owed to them. On this issue, official sources said there were no great problems, adding that domestic problems will have to be resolved between private Venezuelan enterprises and the government, which is expected to modify its legislation in compliance with the Final Document of the G-3 Free Trade Agreement.

Regarding the agreement with Bolivia, COECE members said negotiations had not yet concluded, but they added that "a definite agreement between the two countries could be reached within the near future." They explained that the Mexican team is waiting for a reply from the Bolivian team to a definite negotiation package, and, in turn, that talks could conclude soon and the agreements could go into effect in January 1995.

COECE members also said they have raised their concerns with SECOFI [Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat] authorities on possible delays in implementing the agreement, as well as the measures that are preventing timely compliance.

COECE said SECOFI replied like this: "Everything is going to be fine; it is only a matter of time."

SECOFI officials have said the G-3 agreement was backed by the Venezuelan Government, and therefore the government will review means of modifying its legislation and domestic rules to adjust them to the agreement. There is nothing to prevent the agreement from going into effect on 1 January 1995, according to SECOFI officials, who reiterated that the changes in Venezuela are in response to Caracas' adjustment process to the new trade agreement.

In terms of Bolivia, COECE sources assured that negotiations would be concluded and that the formal announcement would be made on 26 August on the upcoming document to be signed by the presidents of the two nations. Nevertheless, official sources said no final announcement would come today, adding, "we are still a few hours away from concluding the talks." Probably—they added—a definite agreement between the two countries will be announced soon, which would only leave pending the dates on which the agreement would be signed and presented to Congress for approval.

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Costa Rica

Position Modified, Will Receive Cuban Relatives of Residents

PA3008222394 Paris AFP in Spanish 2007 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpt] San Jose, 30 Aug (AFP)—According to Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres, the government today agreed to receive Cuban refugees who have relatives living in this Central American country, but reiterated its refusal to accept a massive wave of immigrants from Cuba or Haiti.

The president said that his country does not have the necessary conditions to "indiscriminately" receive refugees from Cuba, but said that his government is studying mechanisms that would ease the reunification of Cuban families who live in Costa Rica, "for merely humanitarian reasons."

"Our national capacity is frankly too limited to allow us to receive all the people leaving Cuba. We must, however, review those cases in which there are Cuban relatives who live in Costa Rica," Figueres said during an impromptu news conference.

Costa Rica had initially rejected a possible U.S. request to receive refugees from Cuba, but after certain contacts by the U.S. Administration and the work of the Cuban community living in Costa Rica, the government modified its initial position. [passage omitted]

President Clarifies Policy

PA3008234094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2135 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] San Jose, 30 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres considered today the possibility of modifying the policy on Cuban refugees and receiving the relatives of Cuban residents in the country.

"We will study the possibility of implementing an expeditious mechanism that will contribute to family reunification, but we will not receive Cuban immigrants indiscriminately," the president added.

According to Figueres, the initiative will attempt "to contribute to the reunification of several families, in a manner similar to the initiative proposed by Mexico."

The president clarified during a news conference Costa Rica maintains its position of not accepting Haitian or Cuban refugees indiscriminately, because "we are not able to receive massive quantities of citizens from those countries."

He recalled that Costa Rica "received in the recent past 300,000 Central American refugees who came fleeing from war or the economic crises in their countries." This situation "has caused us to have a limited leeway to receive refugees now," the president said.

Figueres said the political forces in that country and the United States have to jointly solve the Cuban problem, with the aid of the international community.

The president said Cuban political organizations (in reference to the government and the groups in exile) should "all make an effort to sit down and negotiate and reach a profound agreement that will end the serious situation confronting this Caribbean nation."

Figueres stressed the importance of the negotiations that are to start tomorrow between the United States and Cuba "to find a solution to the terrible drama of the exodus of Cuban rafters, who deserve all the support of the Latin American nations."

He expressed his confidence that "when Cesar Gaviria, former Colombian president, assumes the post of OAS secretary general in September, the organization will take the responsibility of promoting a dialogue between the parties to regularize the Cuban situation."

"Cuba's drama has to be resolved not only by the United States but among the Cubans themselves, with the cooperation of the hemispheric community," Figueres said when he cited reports, for which he did not specify the sources, on immigrants.

According to those reports, 30 percent of the Cuban "rafters" drown in their attempt to reach the U.S. coasts.

El Salvador

President Denies Sending Troops to Honduran Border

PA3108043994 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] The Salvadoran Government has denied sending troops to the Honduran border and has denied the reported incursion by Honduran soldiers into the area of the so-called "pockets."

"We are not sending troops right now, nor have we decided yet," Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol said following an official ceremony.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Humberto Corado has said government investigations have ruled out the presence of Honduran soldiers from the common border.

The "pockets" are border areas that became Honduran following a decision by the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Different media published reports these last few days that area residents are claiming harassment by Honduran soldiers who are making life impossible.

Corado has said: "It is false. There are no troops. What is happening is that Honduran forestry agents are controlling the indiscriminate felling of trees in the area, and the friction is with them."

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The minister believes the facts must be investigated before making these types of reports that try to "rouse spirits."

The official has made that statement "because the border is not delimited; there is much uncertainty and doubt as to the extent of national sovereignty and integrity and where Honduras' begin."

Leftist leader Jorge Shafik Handal believes the Salvadoran Government should protect Salvadorans who have remained in the pockets, because it is not their fault they are living in territory that was previously Salvadoran but is now Honduran. "Something should be done for them," he has said.

President Armando Calderon Sol announced yesterday morning he will travel to New York to explain the country's situation before the United Nations.

The president did not mention the specific points he will broach in the United Nations; instead, he will speak about the peace process, the country's new reality, and the country's resolve to comply with pending Peace Agreement points. He did not mention when he would travel or who would accompany him.

He made the announcement just after presiding over the ceremonies commemorating the death of Captain General Gerardo Barrios, in the park with the same name. San Salvador Mayor Mario Valiente, Defense Minister General Humberto Corado, Education Minister Cecilia de Cano, and other officials also participated in the ceremonies, as well as coffee union representatives.

Guatemala

Foreign Minister Wants U.S. To Reconsider Meat Quota

PA3108044594 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] Guatemala has taken action to get the United States to reconsider its meat quota system. Foreign Minister Marithza Ruiz de Veilman has said the Central American presidents who participated in the 15th summit, which was held in Costa Rica, stated their position on this issue in a letter addressed to President Bill Clinton:

[Begin Veilman recording] When we were at the summit, we composed a letter asking that these measures be reconsidered. One of the measures GATT has rejected the most is the quota system, because it tends to distort markets. Nevertheless, we believe this Central American request could be accepted. If not, we would be assessing this issue with the ministers in charge of foreign trade.

This is a decision that must be made jointly with the economy minister and the agriculture minister. We would then decide whether it is appropriate to present the preliminary phase, dubbed the consultation phase, as established in GATT.

When one takes into account the fact a nation may not have policies that concur or are not compatible with GATT, one can call for a consultation. If these consultations fail, then one can talk about [words indistinct]. There are still certain preliminary phases through which we must go, and we should fully establish whether they fall within the parameters of the quota prohibition provided for in GATT Chapter 11. [end recording]

Panama

President-Elect Confirms Decision To Restore Ties With Cuba

PA3008144394 Paris AFP in Spanish 1345 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Panama City, 30 Aug (AFP)—The new Panamanian Government that will take office on 1 September will restore diplomatic relations with Cuba, relations that have been at the charge d'affaires level since 1990, President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares reported today.

In statements to the press, Perez Balladares told AFP that Rafael Moreno Saavedra, former Panamanian ambassador to Uruguay, will be appointed Panamanian ambassador to Havana.

Following the 20 December 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama, the government of President Guillermo Endara downgraded relations with Cuba to a minimal level, although commercial trade with the island continued. Cuba annually buys about $300 million worth of merchandise in the Colon Free Zone, 70 km northeast of the capital, while the Cuban Government maintains corporate marketing, maritime, mining, agricultural, and aviation companies in Panama.

Meanwhile, Perez Balladares announced he will appoint Jose Luis Sosa, a Cuban-born citizen and naturalized Panamanian, as head of the secret police. Sosa participated in the anti-communist Bay of Pigs invasion against Cuba in 1961. Sosa acquired Panamanian citizenship in 1969. He is 58, has four children, and will head the Council for Public Security and National Defense (CDSN)—an intelligence organization responsible for safeguarding the president and high-ranking officials.

A personal friend of Perez Balladares, Sosa told AFP he accepted the position because he is a "dedicated Torrijist." In addition, he recalled he was one of the founding members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) organized by the late nationalist leader General Omar Torrijos.

Perez Balladares Delivers 'Message to the Nation'

PA3108033494 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 aug 94

["Message to the nation" by President-elect Dr. Ernesto Perez Balladares on 30 August in Panama City; from the "RPC Television News" newscast—recorded]

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[Text] Just a few hours before being sworn in as president of the republic, I want to express my gratitude to the Panamanian people—both those who voted for us, as well as those who, with dignity and grace, recognized our victory.

We have worked intensely since 9 May to evaluate the country's situation, both domestically as well as internationally. We are sure of the measures we must take so that our work will benefit all Panamanians. For this reason I ask for your forebearance, because however justifiable your demands may be, they cannot be resolved overnight.

I presented substantial proposals, and I am going to follow them. Let us organize the government efficiently to avoid making costly mistakes. I promise that I will not let you down. Many thanks.

Various International Delegations Arrive for Inauguration

PA3108012194 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Report by Abdiel Antonio Gutierrez from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The arrival of Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez received the most attention today, primarily because confirmation is expected for Cuban President Fidel Castro's arrival. Journalists want to question President Castro about Cuba's recent crisis.

Among other things, at 1830 sharp we are expecting the Spanish delegation, specifically, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Felix Pons, and other special delegations. We can review what has occurred today as we wait for that important arrival.

The arrival of international delegations for the presidential inauguration in Panama is keeping dozens of policemen on alert in every corner of this airport, including in the air.

The first to arrive was the delegation from Paraguay, followed by the delegation from Taiwan, led by its vice president, Li Yuan-zu. Li Yuan-zu was received by hundreds of his countrymen who live in Panama. Upon his arrival, Li Yuan-zu signed an important air transportation agreement. The signing of this agreement reduces the flying time between our countries and will make cultural exchanges easier, Li Yuan-zu said. [passage omitted]

This type of event, a presidential inauguration, is measured according to the arrival or acceptance of invitations by the presidents of other countries. From that viewpoint, I believe there is good news regarding the inauguration of Ernesto Perez Balladares, because tomorrow Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori will arrive. International delegations from Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica will arrive at Paitilla Airport, along with delegations from Colombia, Ecuador, and Nicaragua, among others. [passage omitted]

Cuba's Robaina Arrives; Does Not Confirm Castro Visit

PA3008184894 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Interview with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by Octavio Cogley at Tocumen International Airport in Panama City on 30 August; from the "Telemetro Reports" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Cogley] At this moment, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina is arriving in Panama to attend the inauguration of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares. He is being received by Civilian Aide de Camp Dr. Carlos Ozores Typaldos and the deputy foreign minister.

Mr. Robaina, excuse me, we would like to know part of your agenda in Panama, considering that you will attend the inauguration of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares.

[Robaina] Well, I have just arrived, and I am coming here ready to fulfill an agenda that is just beginning. I think I should first speak with other officials to learn the details of that agenda.

[Cogley] Will Cuban President Fidel Castro come to Panama?

[Robaina] Well, he was invited to Panama; his participation depends on many things. I really wish and am sure [words indistinct] participation always depends on any complication a head of state may have.

[Cogley] How many people comprise the Cuban delegation attending President-elect Perez Balladares' inauguration?

[Robaina] I have just arrived from a different place. I think I have to be updated on this, because there is a group coming from Havana tonight. There are people arriving from different places in Panama. There are many people invited, and, among the issues to be discussed, I think the issue of relations between Panama and Cuba is special.

Cited on 'Illegal' Departures

PA3008225194 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1947 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Panama City, 30 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said here today upon arrival in this capital that the countries that have decided to accept Cuban refugees, as have Panama and Honduras, "are encouraging illegal departures."

In statements to reporters, Robaina expressed his regret that the position of new Panamanian President-elect

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Ernesto Perez Balladares, who will be inaugurated on 1 September, "is not consonant with what several countries of the international community have stated in another manner."

Nonetheless, the Cuban foreign minister said he respects "the position any other country assumes," although it is not getting "to the root of the problem."

In his opinion, this type of attitude "stimulates illegal departures from the country and strengthens a policy that has been condemned in Cuba, the United States, and in Central American countries," said Robaina, who arrived to attend the inauguration of Perez Balladares.

Regarding the negotiations Cuba will begin tomorrow, 31 August, with the U.S. Government, the foreign minister said "the basic aspect of the negotiations is that they cover everything, and, anyway, Cuba does not object now to broaching the emigration issue," which "is of mutual interest."

"The future outcome of that dialogue does not depend only on what Cuba wants but, rather, on what the two parties want," the Cuban foreign minister added.

Robaina said Bill Clinton "has been publicly told about what we think, and I think we will begin talks in a few hours about a topic that is, apparently, emigration, which is something more profound for Cubans."

He said the blockade "is unfair and was criminally imposed on my country, which does not have to give anything to have it lifted."

Regarding Cuba's signing of the Tlaltelolco Treaty, which limits the proliferation of nuclear arms, Robaina said it must not be viewed with special significance, but because "we want this America of ours to be increasingly united, and if signing the treaty contributes to that, perfect."

The foreign minister did not confirm Fidel Castro's announced visit to Panama to attend the inauguration of Perez Balladares, because "it depends on many things, and we must see if all the conditions are right," he said.

Further Remarks on Refugees

PA3108020994 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 0005 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Report by Raul Eduardo Cedeno]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina demanded this afternoon understanding and respect in any talks that might take place. He said Cubans are the ones who should decide whatever must be done in Cuba.

Robaina presented his country's policy and philosophy during a news conference and admitted Cuba is experiencing the most serious difficulties in 30 years of political life. He added they are defending not only the thousands of men and women on the island but all those who are suffering, because the Cuban project, he says, is one where dignity, sovereignty, and the ability to speak with one's own voice cannot be negotiated:

[Begin Robaina recording] We declare publicly and without embarrassment that we will not relinquish our socialist project, a project that ensures dignity, the right to speak with our own voice, and social justice. The only thing we have learned from the political model that the world wants us to adopt is that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. [applause] And this is not the path we have chosen for Cuba. [applause] [end recording]

Robaina defended the Cuban position by saying it is not up to any one government to say what must be done in Cuba, because poverty is transient in Cuba, but not shame. As for the numbers of people leaving his country, Robaina downplayed the departure of six, eight, 10, or 20,000 Cubans. For him, there are other more important matters than staying on the island:

[Begin Robaina recording] More important is the fact that 10 million Cubans are functioning under trying circumstances and can still resist—even under pressure—a so-called American dream that turns into a nightmare 24 hours later. [applause] [end recording]

Robaina did not guarantee that Fidel Castro will come to Panama for the swearing-in of the president-elect. He did say, however, that they are willing to talk but that Cuba demands understanding and respect in any talks.

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Argentina

Lebanon's Rafiq al-Hariri Views Relations

PY3008234194 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 29 Aug 94 p 9

[Article by Maria Laura Avignolo in Beirut]

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri says: "We do not have any diplomatic crisis with Argentina. We have nothing to do with the bombing in Argentina."

This response followed clear irritation by the Lebanese prime minister who stopped CLARIN's tape recorder during a question on the possible participation of the pro-Iranian Hizballah group in the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] bombing. The prime minister asked his astonished spokesperson Rima Tarabay: "If you knew that she was going to ask this question, why did you bring her here?"

The interview was only resumed after it was agreed there would be no questions on the AMIA massacre.

The Lebanese people describe al-Hariri as "the Berlusconi of Beirut." According to Forbes magazine, al-Hariri is one of the 10 wealthiest men in the world, with a fortune totaling more than $4 billion.

Al-Hariri discovered politics as his bank account was growing. He became prime minister when the Lebanese political leadership was in shambles after 15 years of civil war.

He emphasized: "Money gives tremendous power. Politics has given me less power than that given by money."

It is necessary to review the recent history of Lebanon to understand al-Hariri's irritation when Hizballah is mentioned.

The defeat of Christian General Michel Aoun at the hands of Syrian-Lebanese forces in October 1990 ended the civil war. Another Christian, President Ilyas al-Harawi, was reinstated in the post from which he had been removed two months earlier. Since his reinstatement, his government has become pro-Saudi Arabian, but basically pro-Syrian.

Many Muslim and Christian Lebanese people say the end of the war in Lebanon left "a puppet government."

This alliance allows al-Harawi to keep 35,000 Syrian soldiers in his territory as "peace guarantors."

This Syrian force was involved during the past three years in dismantling about 20 armed groups that operated throughout the country. A few armed groups, including Hizballah and the pro-Israeli Southern Lebanese Army, still survive.

When the Argentine Government held Iran and the Hizballah group responsible for the AMIA bombing, the accusation was not well received in Beirut.

This annoyance became even greater when the Argentine courts filed a petition for the possible extradition of Shaykh Fadlalah, a Muslim Shiite spiritual leader. The Argentine suspicion threatened to alter the delicate balance in a country that had just overcome a horrible situation, a country in which a Christian president, a Shiite Congress leader, and a Sunnite prime minister coexist today.

Prime Minister al-Hariri said: "The Lebanese people learned a lot from their war and do not want another one. There will not be another war in our country." He added: "The peace process in our region urges us to reconstruct our country's infrastructure." Many people now accuse al-Hariri of using this to build a personal and prolific business.

Menem Requests Iran's 'Cooperation' on AMIA Case

PY3008203294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1818 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Aug (NA)—President Carlos Menem said today that the Argentine Government wants "some cooperation, some type of declaration from the diplomats mentioned by Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano in his report" on the attack on the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] building.

During a news conference, the head of state said: "Relations with Iran, meanwhile, will be maintained while we see how things evolve."

Menem said he was "satisfied" with the results so far of the investigation into the bloody attack.

He recalled: "Let us not forget that the task is not easy. Statistics mention more than 70 terrorist attacks, of which only three or four, at the most, have been resolved."

Menem said the "investigations continue," adding that the process "is moving as fast as circumstances permit."

He confirmed that Argentine Government representatives spoke with Lebanese authorities to ask for their cooperation in finding out who was responsible for the attack.

"The investigation is still open," the president said.

Menem denied that former Montonero [urban guerrillas] leader Raul Galimberti "now works at SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence]." He passed the microphone to SIDE Chairman Hugo Anzorreguy who stressed: "This has been stated, but he does not work at SIDE."

The president said "I see no problem if, in the future, SIDE consults with a former Montonero, for instance with Mr. Horacio Verbistky. I see no problem with

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consulting with him, as he was the Montonero chief of intelligence, on issues referring to terrorism in Argentina. Or would that be a sin?"

Menem added: "The fact that he was the Montonero intelligence chief was published everywhere. He was even mentioned in trial records. Do you remember the bomb? Who activated the remote control? [reference unknown]. Or do you forget the kidnapping of Born brothers [Juan and Jorge Born, part owners of the Bunge and Born trading organization]. What did they do, who took the money to Cuba? How was the money sent to release Jorge Born?"

Asked about comments by DAIA [Argentine-Israeli Association Delegation] President Ruben Beraja who denounced the lack of coordination in the investigation on the AMIA attack between the Federal Police and SIDE, Menem said: "I did not speak with him. I do not think he is right."

Hizballah's Shaykh al-Tufayli Interviewed

PY3008212194 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 28 Aug 94 Section 2 pp 4-6

["Exclusive" interview with Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, former Hizballah secretary general and current high-ranking Hizballah executive council leader, by Maria Laura Avignolo in southern Beirut, Lebanon; date not given; all names as published]

[Text] [Avignolo] In Argentina, the government says Hizballah is to blame for carrying out the Israeli Embassy and AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] bombings in Buenos Aires. Do you accept this responsibility?

[al-Tufayli] (Long silence. Ponders.) Concerning a bombing, every person has a right to have his or her own hypothesis and conduct his or her own analysis. But no one has the right to accuse without evidence. When the Argentine Government said Hizballah and Iran were to blame, it said first that it did not have any evidence, but presumptions. As these accusations are not backed by any evidence, we reject them. They are unacceptable and are part of a U.S. campaign against Hizballah and Iran.

[Avignolo] If Hizballah had carried out the bombing, would you admit it?

[al-Tufayli] Yes, if Hizballah had carried it out, we would have admitted it.

[Avignolo] The Ansar Alla organization called the AFP news agency, claiming responsibility for the bombing and making it clear that it was carried out under its leadership. Does this organization exist? And are you the leader of this organization?

[al-Tufayli] No. There is no Ansar Alla organization in Lebanon. I am not playing any role in it, as it does not exist. After that communique, some people used the role of Ansar Alla, but I do not believe it exists. After all the time I have been here, I have never heard of it.

[Avignolo] Is Ansar Alla (God's followers) linked to the Western hostages in Lebanon?

[al-Tufayli] I have not heard anything of them. No one remembers this organization having been involved in the abduction of the hostages.

[Avignolo] Do you condemn the bombings in Argentina?

[al-Tufayli] We condemn bombings against innocent people, whether in Argentina or in any part of the world. This represents a principle. We would like all other countries to condemn bombings against innocent people. In Lebanon, many crimes have been committed against innocent people, and we have never heard of Argentina or any other country condemning them.

[Avignolo] Is Hizballah a tight organization, or does it have dissidents?

[al-Tufayli] (Laughs) Hizballah is a united organization and is very well controlled. There is no dissidence and there are no uncontrolled factions. But this does not mean to say that we represent all Muslim believers. Hizballah is tight and united.

[Avignolo] Some say that you do not agree with the general management of Hizballah.

[al-Tufayli] There are divergent viewpoints, but there are no conflicts. When parliamentary elections were held two years ago I did not agree with the management of Hizballah due to its participation in the elections. But there is no conflict; there are divergent viewpoints.

[Avignolo] And regarding military tactics?

[al-Tufayli] (He bursts out laughing.) I am speaking about conflicts in the theoretical plan of political action. But there are no conflicts regarding military tactics.

[Avignolo] Does Hizballah carry out kamikaze actions abroad, or only in Lebanon?

[al-Tufayli] To be honest, up to the present time Hizballah has carried out actions in Lebanon. But this does not mean to say that it cannot carry them out elsewhere. But to carry out actions outside there have to be conditions that must be respected. When a country is a friend and respects Hizballah's rights, we cannot carry out an action in its territory because we run the risk of harming the good relations. Also, we cannot kill innocent people such as a child, an old person, a woman. This is why such attacks cannot be carried out.

[Avignolo] Do you consider Menem to be a president of Arab origin who, for you, continues to be an Arab?

[al-Tufayli] It does not matter a lot whether he is an Arab or not. The fact is that he seems to have failed in his mission, because political and diplomatic matters cannot be dealt with so flippantly and foolishly. How could he

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have hurled accusations and condemnation without proof, and then say:"I have no proof?" That is not a serious way to act.

[Avignolo] Do you believe that Menem's election campaign was pro-Arab, and that now it is pro-American or pro-Israeli? In your opinion: Why did he change?

[al-Tufayli] I do not believe that Carlos Menem has changed. He was like that, and it is only now that we have gotten to know what he is like.

[Avignolo] Do you approve of suicidal operations abroad?

[al-Tufayli] In Islam, just as it is prohibited to kill one's fellow man, in principle it is prohibited to commit suicide, but suicidal operations are permitted under certain conditions: when death is assured, if there is no other way to fight for the liberty of one's country and to defend one's faith. We can carry out suicidal operations only if death is assured.

[Avignolo] Is Image Mugniyeh, whom the British press has called one of the brains behind the attacks in Argentina and London, a member of Hizballah?

[al-Tufayli] I would have liked to have said that Mugniyeh is a member of Hizballah, but regrettably he is not.

[Avignolo] Why was this attack carried out in Argentina, and who is responsible?

[al-Tufayli] It could have been a divisive faction within the Jewish community, rival parties that wanted to stop a determined process. It could also have been Muslims who oppose Zionism. It could also have been the work of intelligence services, whose world is very shady. We will get to know some time within the next 20 years whether the services carried out this attack.

The enthusiasm of the U.S. services to immediately accuse Hizballah and Islamic power, and the statements of Warren Christopher in which he accuses us, cause us to ask whether they were not expecting this operation and wanted it. But this does not serve us. It is an analysis and presumptuous. There is no proof. It is written in the Koran: "While you have no indications do not accuse."

[Avignolo] The Hizballah always films the operations in southern Lebanon. In the case of the attack on the Israeli Embassy, there was a film that showed the building before and after its bombing. Is that a coincidence?

[al-Tufayli] We have not watched that film in Lebanon. What was the film like?

[Avignolo] I watched it on Argentine and French television. A group which claimed to be the "Islamic Jihad" (the Hizballah faction that abducted Western hostages and undertook the worst kamikaze operations in Lebanon) had sent it to an agency.

[al-Tufayli] (As if taken by surprise) "Islamic Jihad" is not the Hizballah. One should not confuse us. If the name of the organization has some connection with Islam, that does not mean that it is the Hizballah. I assert that the Hizballah has nothing to do with the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina or with the other attack in Argentina.

[Avignolo] Are you of the opinion that all Jewish objectives in the world should be attacked?

[al-Tufayli] No. Not all Jews ought to become the target of attacks. Proof of this is that not all Jews are attacked in Palestine (Israel)—only those who are engaged in repression and do not recognize other people's rights.

[Avignolo] Could you explain me the link between Iran and the Hizballah?

[al-Tufayli] I am awfully sorry that the name of Iran was linked in a stupid and flippant manner with those events in Buenos Aires. With regard to our relations with Iran, they are very close in light of the fact that we both believe in Islam. If we believe in Islam we are obliged to help the needy and the poor. This is why it is Iran's duty to help the Hizballah. We have too many problems, whether on account of Israeli attacks or...[changes thought] Iran is providing aid for the Hizballah in the interior for the building of its hospitals, for the families of martyrs, and for operations in the south.

[Avignolo] Does Iran provide you with financial and logistical aid in these operations?

[al-Tufayli] Nearly all the Iranian aid is earmarked for anti-Israeli operations and for funding reconstructions after Israeli attacks. It gives us money. Iran is not proud of this. On the contrary, it is the duty of all strong nations to help the weakest ones.

[Avignolo] Argentine justice has argued that the Iranian diplomatic bag was used in the logistics of the attack. Do you consider this to be an honorable recourse in your struggle against Israel?

[al-Tufayli] No, because our fight against Israel does not give us the right to disregard the laws and regulations in force in other countries. Iran has no right to transport explosives in its diplomatic bags.

[Avignolo] Do you believe that the attack in Argentina is linked with the peace process, and is a move to obtain a strong bargaining chip with regard to Israel in future negotiations?

[al-Tufayli] That is obviously part of the analyses. What we believe is that this attack served Israeli and U.S. interests, because everybody felt sympathetic toward Israel. It also enabled the Americans to mobilize the world against Iran.

[Avignolo] Do you accept the peace process?

[al-Tufayli] No. We are against the peace process.

[Avignolo] If the Israelis withdraw from southern Lebanon, will your battle against the Israelis end, or will you

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murder the Jews who come to Beirut, as you have promised in your remarks to the press?

[al-Tufayli] We will continue battling on, of course, even if there is peace and the Israelis withdraw from southern Lebanon. We will continue waging war against the Jews who come to Beirut and those who live in Palestine (Israel).

[Avignolo] Will you murder them? Is that the Hizballah's official position?

[al-Tufayli] You are asking me questions and I am answering them on my own account. This is my personal opinion.

Hizballah Leader Interviewed on Bombings

PY3008202594 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 28 Aug 94 Section 2 pp 2-4

["Exclusive" interview with Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Na'im Qasim by Maria Laura Avignolo in Bir el Abed in southern Beirut, Lebanon; date not given; all names as published]

[Text] Under strict security measures, and without informing until the last minute who the interlocutor would be, Shaykh Na'im Qasim received this special correspondent at an apartment in Bir el Abed, southern Beirut, a neighborhood that is populated by Shiite Muslims and devastated by the bombings. This is the kingdom of the Party of God, of its phantasmagoric militias, and of its women covered from head to foot in the name of God.

With his classical white turban, a cardinal style ring on one finger, and black cloak, Sheik Na'im Qasim, deputy secretary general of the Hizballah, placed his hand on his heart and slightly nodded his head as a greeting. He began his interview in Arabic, which is the only language they are allowed to speak. He has beside him a photograph of Shaykh Abbas Mussawi, who was murdered by the Israelis one month before the attack against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, for which the Hizballah swore revenge.

Calm and intelligent, he had a penetrating and hard stare which he maintained in a fixed manner in the face of irritating questions, smiling roguishly when regional politics were discussed. Nothing seemed to disturb him. His fury and discomfort appeared only in his eyes, while he harmoniously moved his small white hands.

[Avignolo] The Argentine Government has accused you of being the perpetrators of the attack against the premises of the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] and of the attack against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. Does the Hizballah accept this accusation?

[Qasim] Hizballah is a political party that has as its objective the liberation of southern Lebanon and the expulsion of the Israelis. On several occasions we have announced the method by which we would fight the enemy to put an end to the occupation, which we carry out directly on our occupied land. Every time we carry out an operation against the Israelis we film it and claim responsibility for it. We have evidence that we publish for the world to see. We are not convinced that operations abroad will serve our purpose. We have absolutely no ties with the explosion that occurred in Buenos Aires. If we have the courage to say that we are responsible for the fight against Israeli and U.S. plans in Lebanon, then we would not be afraid to assume responsibility for operations that take place in other parts of the world.

[Avignolo] Do you carry out operations abroad?

[Qasim] We are not convinced of that method of fighting, of carrying out operations abroad. We do not even bomb the civilians in the northern part of Palestine (as they call Israel) if the Israelis do not touch our civilians in southern Lebanon. We carry out operations to oblige them to stop the aggressions against the civilians in southern Lebanon. All our actions have the objective of combating Israeli aggression.

[Avignolo] Why do you believe that the Argentine Government and courts have made this accusation against Hizballah?

[Qasim] The Argentine Government wants to take advantage of Israeli and U.S. support to benefit the political party that is currently in power in Argentina. It was the North Americans and the Israelis who first accused Hizballah after the attack. The Argentine Government accused us due to U.S. and Israeli pressure. Despite all of this, the Israelis announced that they did not have any evidence as to what was used for the attack. How could they accuse the Hizballah of carrying out the attack when days afterward they did not know how it was carried out? The Argentine Government's statements are contradictory. Some say it was Hizballah, while others say they have no evidence. The Argentine judge has based his accusation on the remarks of an Iranian dissident who said "I know everything" and afterward said "I know nothing." Nothing is based on the truth.

[Avignolo] How do you explain these two attacks on Jewish targets in Argentina, a distant country which has little information about the Middle East conflict?

[Qasim] There are many possibilities for the reason why the Jewish community was chosen as the target for these attacks. The Jews have problems with many people the world over. They have problems with the Nazis, with the Palestinians, with international organizations, and even with the Communists in Russia. They have many enemies and many problems. We cannot accuse anybody, because otherwise we would fall into the same trap and would make the same mistake the Argentine Government did. We have no evidence or leads against anybody.

[Avignolo] Are you willing to condemn the attack perpetrated in Argentina?

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[Qasim] We do not support a policy of attacks against civilians or their interests throughout the world. We have a well-defined stance on that.

[Avignolo] Do you believe that Argentina's charges against Hizballah are due to the fact that your organization has in previous occasions used "kamikaze" attacks on Jewish or Western objectives in Lebanon?

[Qasim] We have resorted to suicidal or kamikaze operations in our land. We have claimed responsibility for these operations and are proud of them.

Had we been convinced of the effectiveness of these operations abroad, we would have also claimed responsibility for them, because our strength would have thus increased. Why would we be afraid when Israeli planes bombard us every day?

The United States has already made the political decision to combat Hizballah. We cannot claim responsibility for something we have not done.

[Avignolo] Hizballah promised revenge following the murder of Shaykh Abbas Mussawi. Soon afterwards the Israeli Embassy was destroyed in Buenos Aires. Then, we had the Israeli bombardment of Baalbek, the kidnapping of Mustafa Dirani, the bombing of the AMIA building in Argentina, and the attack on the Israeli Embassy in London. Do these events follow each other in time only by coincidence?

[Qasim] We think it is simple coincidence, simple coincidence...because in Argentina you do not really know what is happening in our occupied land. After Shaykh Mussawi's murder there were a series of operations in southern Lebanon that resulted in the killing of 15 Israeli soldiers. The resistance in southern Lebanon carried out seven very important operations that resulted in 56 Israelis killed and wounded after the bombardment of Baalbek and Dirani's kidnapping, between July and August.

The Israeli Army announced investigations after each operation to find out how Hizballah could enter so deeply into occupied territories. For us, those operations are the answer to Israel's aggression, and we will continue to carry them out.

[Avignolo] There is a Hizballah faction called "Ansar Alla" (God's followers) that claimed responsibility for the attack in a wire sent to AFP. Does that faction exist?

[Qasim] Ansar Alla is an organization that only exists in AFP (laughs).

[Avignolo] But some people recall the group as being associated with the kidnapping of Westerners in Lebanon.

[Qasim] I am a political observer. I follow events in Lebanon, but I have never heard of "Ansar Alla." I have seen it mentioned only twice. The first time was in a magazine called "AS-SHIRA" (pro-Syria, and which unveiled the "Iran-Contra" affair) and then by AFP. But this organization does not exist in the field.

[Avignolo] The British press has identified Imag Mugniyeh as the brain behind the attacks in Buenos Aires. He has been portrayed as a founder of Hizballah. Is that true?

[Qasim] Imag Mugniyeh is not a Hizballah member. I do not think the British press accusations are based on justice or on proof.

Argentine, Israeli, and U.S. intelligence services met in Argentina, but so far they have not been able to find a single proof or indication of Hizballah involvement. How could the British services—which are far from the theater of operations—be sure of a thing like that? If the British services had proof they would have handed them over to Argentina, which has been humiliated by the attack and has made accusations without proof.

[Avignolo] The Lebanese Government has strongly rejected the Argentine Government accusations. What is your evaluation of the Lebanese Government position in this conflict?

[Qasim] Hizballah thinks that the Lebanese Government position is good. The government here is convinced that the Argentine Government accusations are false and groundless. The Lebanese Government took upon itself to defend Hizballah. You know, we are part of the opposition. The Lebanese Government would not have come to our defense had there been real proof against Hizballah.

[Avignolo] Argentina's justice department has requested the capture of four Iranian diplomats accused of having participated in the attack, and establishes links with Hizballah. Can you explain Hizballah-Iranian relations?

[Qasim] May God help the Argentine people if the justice department operates like that Argentine judge! There are no links between us and Iran in this affair. It has also been proven that the accusations against Iran were groundless. Some of the four diplomats mentioned by the judge have not been in the region for years, and others left two months ago. There is no proof of Hizballah or Iranian involvement. This is a U.S. political decision to fight Islam's "political" strength. They say Iran represents this political Islam, and Hizballah is Islam's strong arm. The United States has usually accused Iran, Hizballah, "Hamas"—the Islamic movement that is very active in the occupied territories—and other Islamic movements, without proof, every time there is an incident.

[Avignolo] But how are the political, financial, and religious relations between Iran and Hizballah?

[Qasim] There is a difference between religious and political relations. Regarding our religious relations, we think Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i (who replaced Khomeini) is the guide for the world's Muslims, just as

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Pope John Paul is for Christians. We obey this guide. Regarding our political relations, Iran uses Islam to fight imperialism. Iran helps those who are oppressed and marginalized, and supports our cause. We and Iran have common interests.

[Avignolo] How are Hizballah's relations with Syria?

[Qasim] Our relations are good, because Syria supports our cause, our struggle to liberate southern Lebanon. Syria has played a very important role in ending the civil war and consolidating peace in Lebanon. We think Syria has an important role in the country, and we maintain good relations with it.

[Avignolo] Are there political relations between Hizballah and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad?

[Qasim] We have political relations with Syria. We hold regular meetings, particularly with Syria. Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and other politicians.

[Avignolo] Argentina has at present excellent relations with Israel and the United States. Does Hizballah think that this may be one of the reasons for Argentina having been chosen as the target for attacks on Jewish objectives?

[Qasim] I do not know why Argentina was chosen as a target—perhaps for domestic reasons. (He seems uncomfortable with the question.) We need information to voice an opinion on that, and I do not have the necessary information on that issue.

[Avignolo] Do you consider the attack on the Jewish organization in Argentina to be a consequence of the Middle East peace process, or that it was perpetrated by those who refuse to accept it?

[Qasim] If the inquest enables it to be proven that the masterminds behind the attack are Palestinians or somebody from this region, it means that the attack is linked to the peace process. Nevertheless, if the Nazis or other people were responsible for the attack, then it has no relation whatsoever with the peace process.

[Avignolo] Syria, which is the arbitrator in Lebanon, has entered into peace negotiations with Israel. Does Hizballah accept these negotiations between the two countries?

[Qasim] Syria has its own policy, and that is its affair. Still, Hizballah has stated that it rejects these peace negotiations because they are not really true negotiations, as they are based on the maintenance of the occupation and the departure of Palestinians from their lands. They just legitimize the occupation.

[Avignolo] Would Hizballah accept an order by Syria to disarm in southern Lebanon?

[Qasim] It is still too early to discuss that. When the time comes we will find a way to fight against Israel and preserve our relations with Syria.

[Avignolo] Do you think that Iran is interested in participating in the Middle East peace process or that it wants a voice in it?

[Qasim] Iran has announced that it opposes the peace process that is currently under way. And yet it is interested in the cause of the peoples of the region, and especially that of Jerusalem and southern Lebanon.

[Avignolo] Does Hizballah consider that Syria is interested in Iran's participation in the peace process and in a rapprochement between the Iranian Government and Western countries?

[Qasim] Relations between Syria and Iran have come a long way. Syria has announced that it "esteems" Iran's position opposing the peace process, whereas Iran "esteems" Syria's stance on the peace process. This means that the two countries are in agreement and that each understands the other's margin for maneuvering.

I think that Iran does not wish to participate in a peace process in which Syria is the mediator. Iran has good relations with France, Germany, and Japan, and it does not need a Syrian mediation in the West.

[Avignolo] And won't it need Syrian mediation to seek rapprochement with the United States?

[Qasim] Iran is not interested in rapprochement with the United States. There are pending problems between the two countries that prevent bilateral relations from improving. It was the United States which sought—through mediation—to improve relations with Iran. The United States wants Iran to be tied to its apron strings; it does not want egalitarian relations.

[Avignolo] Would Hizballah understand a new rapprochement between Iran and the United States?

[Qasim] As long as the United States continues to encourage the oppression of our peoples, we will oppose it. If relations between the United States and Iran are resumed in the future, we will then come to an appropriate decision.

[Avignolo] Do you believe that following the crumbling of communism the West's new enemy is Islam?

[Qasim] That is what Clinton and other U.S. leaders have said on several occasions. When President Clinton mistakenly used the word Islam—which incurred the indignation of Islamic peoples—he explained his lapse by saying that there was a "moderate Islam" and an "extremist Islam."

Some days ago, Clinton said that Saudi Arabia represents the "moderate" Islam and Iran the "extremist" one. He seemed to have intended to say that "we could accept those who sell their country."

[Avignolo] Is Hizballah ready for this war between Islam and the great Western nations?

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[Qasim] If the West decides to strike us we will have no other choice but to defend ourselves. If the West decides to control our policy and occupy our country, in other words, to dominate us, the only thing we can do is to confront it. We are messengers of love, forgiveness, morals—if only the West would leave us in peace.

[Avignolo] You are the only militias that survive as an armed group in Lebanon. Why do you think that the Lebanese Government accepts this?

[Qasim] (He smiles and rubs his hands.) All the Lebanese parties keep their weapons. Some staged a "show" and surrendered some of their weapons to the authorities. What differentiates Hizballah from the others is that we have taken up arms against the Israeli enemy in the south rather than participate in domestic struggles.

Auto Industry Agreement Ties Salaries to Productivity

94SM0452A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Aug 94 pp 30-31

[Text] The government, the automotive industry, and the metalworkers unions yesterday signed an agreement to promote the early implementation of labor flexibility measures in that sector. Among other things, they agreed that pay raises will be discussed on a company-by-company basis, and that any raises negotiated must be adjusted to productivity increase targets.

The six-point pact was signed last night at the Casa Rosada in the presence of Carlos Menem, Domingo Cavallo, Armando Caro Figueroa, and Secretary of Industry Carlos Magarino, who negotiated the terms of the agreement with labor and management.

Signing on behalf of the private sector were Raul Torres (Metalworkers Union, UOM), Jose Rodriguez (Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers, SMATA), Horacio Losoviz (Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers, ADEFA), and the representatives of the auto parts manufacturers, Ricardo Roca (Chamber of Auto Parts Manufacturers, CIFARA) and Horacio Larre Orono (CAIA).

The chief executives of the main companies involved sat in the first row on the dais. Sevel was represented by Mauricio Macri, while Jorge Mostany appeared for Autolatina, Manuel Antelo for Ciadea (formerly Renault), and former Minister Nestor Rapanelli for Scania.

The wage question was at the heart of the accord (see box). It was agreed to discuss the matter one company at a time and to tie wage hikes to productivity and efficiency.

To achieve this basic agreement, the UOM worked down to the wire to expressly exclude the wage concessions it had wrested from employers (both inside and outside the automotive industry) in recent months.

Against this backdrop, the pact signed yesterday included a precautionary clause: "The signatories will negotiate the foundations and mechanisms necessary for the full implementation of this agreement in good faith and in a climate of social peace and mutual understanding," reads Point 5.

The government's fears in this regard appear to be focused on the UOM's behavior in the future. This official warning does not, however, appear to apply to the mechanics of the SMATA. At least that is the implication of the statement uttered by Carlos Menem in the middle of the ceremony: "My friend Jose Rodriguez came to tell me proudly that no member of his union joined the general work stoppage today (yesterday)."

Menem took the opportunity to criticize the unions that convened yesterday's protest: "The stoppage will fail, just as the Federal March failed before," he declared.

The president praised the performance of the automotive sector in the past three years, since the system set up in 1991 was implemented. "A million cars were built in three years, and 45,000 new jobs were created," he said enthusiastically.

Referring to the latter issue, he once again criticized the work of the National Institute of Statistics and Census, which announced the highest unemployment rate in history a few days ago. "It is still operating with the same methodology it used 50 years ago," complained Menem.

And finally, he confessed that the selection of the date for the signing of the agreement had not been accidental: "I asked the secretary of industry to speed up the signing as a demonstration to those who think that by stopping work they can solve their problems."

Wages

The government, auto manufacturers, and trade unions yesterday signed an agreement extending to 1999 the reconversion accord that has been in effect in the automotive industry since 1991. The innovative feature of this new agreement is the wage policy: The unions (UOM and SMATA) accepted early application of labor flexibility measures, since pay raises will be negotiated on a company-by-company basis and will be tied to improvements in productivity, efficiency, and quality, as agreed with each unit of production.

[Box, p 30]

Main Points of the Agreement

- Wage hikes in the automotive industry will be determined exclusively on the basis of improved productivity.
- The automotive industry—manufacturers and suppliers—reaffirms the commitments made on 25 March 1991 and agrees to extend that accord until 1999. In this connection, it agrees to cut prices in the sector

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over the next few years in order to gain international competitiveness.

- Auto manufacturers, with the cooperation of suppliers, concessionaires, and workers, will increase the volumes of production necessary to supply the domestic market and will ensure that local products attain a growing share of the Argentine market.
- The reconversion process should be carried further so that, by improving productivity and competitiveness, imports of parts and vehicles can be substituted. Thus, priority will be given to boosting employment levels and bringing about an increase in exports.
- Auto manufacturers pledge to make more investments in 1994 than in 1993, bringing the level above $350 million. For the remainder of the period, investments will total $2 billion. Manufacturing firms also agree to increase exports.
- The national government agrees to keep the automotive system in place, adjusting the policy on sales of parts and finished vehicles in the sector to the country's true needs and exercising the necessary control to prevent any distortion of the stated objectives, particularly with regard to job creation and accords within the Mercosur, to keep the present structure intact until the system is completed.
- This agreement will be evaluated at least twice a year during its effective period, or whenever exceptional circumstances warrant, at the request of any of the parties.
- The 1994 target is production of 400,000 units and exports of $1.2 billion. These figures will increase until production of 600,000 units per year is achieved in 1999. This means that more jobs will be available in auto plants, parts manufacturers, and concessionaires.
- Management pledges to give the SMATA and the UOM the documentation they need to analyze and audit the systems agreed upon.

Brazil

Cuba's Robaina Answers Questions on Talks With U.S., Economy

PY3008164894 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Aug 94 p 44

[Interview with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina; "responses were faxed to O GLOBO" from Bolivia "before Robaina's arrival in Brazil" on 27 August]

[Text] [O GLOBO] What policy is the Cuban Government adopting regarding the Cubans who leave or attempt to leave Cuba illegally?

[Robaina] This is not only a problem involving migration. There exists a hostile and aggressive policy against my country; there is a criminal economic blockade against Cuba that is a flagrant violation of our people's human rights. The transmission of more than 1,000 hours of radio programming against Cuba inciting our people to disrupt order, to engage in violence, and to emigrate illegally is a manipulation that costs many human lives through the migration problem. The Cuban position is clear. If the United States does not adopt measures to change this situation, we will not forbid the illegal emigration. It is their problem.

[O GLOBO] Cuba demands for its refugees treatment equal to that accorded by the U.S. Government to illegal refugees from other countries. How is the Cuban Government viewing the White House decision to suspend the automatic immigration of Cubans?

[Robaina] I would like to see what would happen in any Latin American country if the United States received as heroes those who illegally cross the border, occupy embassies, and seize boats. While the United States agreed to grant 20,000 visas per year, it only grants 2,000. The manner by which they play with people's lives is tragic. That is, it is tragic that the lives of people who migrate mainly for economic reasons, attempting to escape from the blockade, should be presented as a political problem. Now they have created a concentration camp for Cubans on Guantanamo base. That is not a solution. The solution is to eliminate the basic cause and problem, which is the blockade. We are willing to initiate negotiations on the migration issue to find a solution.

[O GLOBO] What damage has the Cuban economy suffered as a result of the economic blockade?

[Robaina] The damage is incalculable. We should calculate how much it has cost to reconvert our industries, replace American technology, and make trade deals with distant countries, purchasing their goods at inflated prices. Some analysts say that it has cost us more than $40 million. The most serious thing is that it has cost human lives. One hundred children died as a consequence of a dengue epidemic. When we tried to buy medicines, they denied them to us.

[O GLOBO] What are the main problems faced by Cuba during the current economic transition period?

[Robaina] The main problem is the blockade, and then the sudden loss of 85 percent of our hard currency income when our traditional markets in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe disappeared. Of course, we also have problems of inefficiency in the administration of the economy, and we are working on this, but it is really not a determining problem. The programs that are currently under implementation are developing well, and thanks to them, the country survives. Tourism is increasing at a rate of more than 30 percent annually. Our new biotechnological industry is producing new technologies based on an infrastructure built not long ago.

[O GLOBO] Are investments being attracted into Cuba?

[Robaina] Hundreds of economic associations with foreign capital are operating in Cuba, not only in the field of tourism, but in mining, cement, oil, and other sectors.

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Investment conditions in Cuba are very good and there is a good response from investors. Response would be greater were it not for the brutal pressures that exist and that frustrate many possible deals. I hope the U.S. businessmen will not have to regret later the business opportunities they are losing.

[O GLOBO] The economic renewal experiences in Cuba (such as the use of the dollar currency, and private small entrepreneurship) have, according to the media, generated social imbalances previously unknown in Cuba. What are these problems, and how can they be solved?

[Robaina] This path is being determined by the current hard reality and it requires much realism and courage. In 1986 we already began to implement transformations in our economy to make it more efficient. Under the current conditions, we must preserve essentials. Of course, this includes the social gains, which were not harmed, but we must apply hard measures that naturally are disagreeable. Most of the Cuban people, however, understand the reasons for the problems and understand that the solution to this critical problem requires measures that will always be complementary because the basic objective is economic recovery. In Cuba we do not have, nor will there be, a single destitute person.

Asylum Given to Seven Cuban Refugees in Salvador

PY3008182394 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Brazilian Government has granted political asylum to seven Cuban refugees who arrived yesterday in Salvador, Bahia State. They were picked up from the sea by a Mexican ship and received in Bahia by UNHCR officials. The Cubans are staying in a hotel in Salvador, and they said they still intend to travel to the United States.

Poll Shows Drop for Cardoso, Lula, Increase Among Undecided Voters

PY3108033094 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 28 Aug 94 p 12

[Text] The last poll conducted by Vox Populi from 19 to 23 August, which was published by JORNAL DO BRASIL on 27 August, had two surprises: first, support for Fernando Henrique Cardoso, PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], dropped from 40 percent to 38 percent; and second, the number of people who still do not know for whom they will vote increased from 12 percent to 15 percent. The drop in Fernando Henrique Cardoso's popularity did not benefit his adversary Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, support for whom also decreased from 27 percent to 23 percent. An explanation for these changes, which occurred in only one week, can be that support for Cardoso had reached the highest level possible for this stage of the electoral campaign. This trend, however, can only be confirmed after other polls are conducted. Nonetheless, one thing has become certain: The vote of those who remain undecided will decide the presidential elections. Some 36 percent of all voters (more than one-third of their overall number) still have not decided for whom they will vote on 3 October.

Regarding the gubernatorial elections in Rio de Janeiro, the Vox Populi poll confirmed the possibility of a runoff, probably to be disputed by Marcello Alencar, PSDB, and Anthony Garotinho, Democratic Labor Party. Marcello has maintained the 29 percent obtained in the previous poll, while Garotinho went up from 19 percent to 23 percent. Newton Cruz (Democratic Social Party), who obtained 11 percent, surpassed Jorge Bittar (Workers Party), whose support dropped to 10 percent.

SAE, Army Intelligence Following CUT, Workers Party Movements

PY3108030994 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 27 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Celson Franco]

[Text] Brasilia—It is not only the Strategic Affairs Secretariat (SAE) that is observing CUT [Sole Workers Center] movements, but also the Army Intelligence Center (CIE), in accordance with the military concept that it is necessary to closely follow all processes that could require its future participation. The military are concentrating their attention on the elections and all elements linked to it. They are analyzing the electoral process and making projections, especially in case Fernando Henrique Cardoso is elected president. Some foresee a country plagued by a violent wave of strikes in 1996 as a result of the negative effects of the Real Plan.

Several possibilities and hypotheses are being contemplated, but always from the cautious viewpoint that the electoral victory is still not defined, despite Cardoso's advantageous position in the polls. Some officials recall that Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's position seemed unsurpassable before the episode with Bisol [Senator Paulo Bisol, Lula's previous running mate] and the implementation of the Real Plan. A brigade general—who remarked that he does not fear Lula, but "trembles" to think about the possibility of seeing the PT [Workers Party] heading the government—said: "No one is immune from having an accident along the way."

"Black September"

An intelligence area officer thinks it is an exaggeration to worry about a possible wave of strikes in September, which is even being called "black September" by those who are most alarmist. He believes the CUT will go back on its plans and keep the strikes under control so as not to compromise Lula's candidacy any further. He points out, however, that those who head the PT candidate's campaign have been making many mistakes.

According to this officer, Cardoso's victory would force the PT to severely and critically analyze its position, and this might cause serious splits within the party. He

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believes 1995 will be a calm year, particularly because the PT will still be prostrated by the defeat and occupied with analyzing its situation. Reaction would only occur in 1996, and would be performed by the CUT, which is the PT's labor union branch. According to this military officer, some negative effects of the Real Plan will have already become evident by then, and will fuel a large wave of strikes.

Officer Denies Infiltration

The military sector follows CUT and PT movements but, according to an Army officer, there are no CIE men infiltrated into Lula's party. He asserts that the sector uses several methods to follow their movements, including through the press and with people trained to analyze facts and make projections based on what they observe. The officer asserts that this observation is no longer based on the personal and anticommunist concerns that prevailed in the past.

According to the officer, the sector is seeking to understand the process, gain the capacity to make projections and to foresee situations, and thus enable the Army to fight the strikes whenever it is called upon to do so. The officer also said that the SAE has been following some of the aforementioned movements but is too disorganized, its performance being much inferior to the level of the former SNI [National Intelligence Service].

PT Expels Lawyer Suspected of Arms Trafficking

PY3008224994 Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 17 Aug 94 pp 27-29

["Exclusive" report from Santiago de Chile by Jaime Brener and Gustavo Fuentes]

[Excerpts] Elizabeth Cavini, 41, is a well-known labor lawyer whose hard bargaining borders on inflexibility. She defends the metalworkers and salespeople of Avare (Sao Paulo State), whose unions she represents. Lately, however, Elizabeth has had to put together her own defense. She has been expelled from the PT [Workers Party] on the serious charge of smuggling arms for the Chilean terrorist Lautaro group. One unidentified PT leader said: "We are afraid this case could be exploited for electoral purposes."

Lawyer Cavini, who is married to a Chilean, told ISTOE in Avare: "This is absurd. I have traveled to Chile many times as a tourist. I have never been a militant of anything but the PT." She did not allow pictures to be taken during the interview with ISTOE, and two members of the local OAB [Brazilian Attorney's Association] accompanied her throughout the interview. [passage omitted]

A Chilean diplomat contacted a top leader of the PT in January. He whispered into the leader's ear that Cavini was part of an arms trafficking network that supplied Lautaro guerrillas. It appears that the Chilean secret service even detected the lawyer's presence in Chile during the preparations for a number of attacks that finally took place in March this year. [passage omitted]

In December 1993, Cavini's trip to Chile coincided with another major guerrilla action: The attack on a Carabineros (militarized police) precinct station during which two policemen were wounded. [passage omitted]

In July, pro-PT policemen contacted the party leadership. Without knowing of the information the Chilean diplomat had relayed, they told the same story: Elizabeth Cavini seemed to be involved in arms smuggling. It was also reported that Juan Carlos Contreras Varas, an electronic engineer who handles the international connections of the Lautaro, was in touch with "Brazilian revolutionary groups." The Chilean police also suspect Ruben Tapia, another Lautaro leader who has been visiting Brazil. [passage omitted]

Franco Wants Embraer To Win U.S. Bid for Military Planes

PY3008234594 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2354 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco is making an effort to convince the U.S. Government to accept the Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] offer to supply 800 military planes to the United States. Today in Juiz de Fora Franco confirmed that he sent a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton mentioning that Brazil wants Embraer to win the U.S. bid, although he guarantees he will not interfere in the process. Franco reminded Clinton that the U.S. Raytheon company won a Brazilian bid to supply equipment for the Sivam, Amazon Region Surveillance System. "It is not offensive to remind President Clinton of the results of the Sivam bid, or of our interest in the success of Embraer," said President Franco. He thus confirmed the policy of "giving to receive." He said: "Embraer is very important for us and we really want it to close a deal with the U.S. Government."

Official Justifies Construction of Angra-2 Plant

PY3108000094 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1848 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 29 Aug (AE)—Strategic Affairs Secretary Admiral Mario Cesar Flores said here today that the completion of the Angra-2 nuclear plant is essential to justify the production of nuclear fuel at an industrial level. This is the first time the government has publicly admitted that Angra-2 will serve not only to generate electricity. The Navy enriches uranium at an experimental level in the Aramar Experimental Center, Sao Paulo, but only with Angra-2 and other operational nuclear plants will there be enough demand to justify fuel production at an industrial level.

Flores said Brazil is "technically capable of overcoming the bottleneck" in the uranium enrichment process. He said the Poco de Caldas uranium mines in Minas Gerais

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State are exhausted. That is where the Nuclear Industries of Brazil (INB) produces "yellow cake" (benefited uranium). Flores said: "There is no sense in opening other uranium mines in Brazil without the guarantee that there will be a demand," adding: "For that we need Angra-2."

President Franco last week authorized the conclusion of Angra-2 but, according to Flores, the government is "experiencing a critical moment because it requires the authorization of Congress" to transfer resources allocated for Angra-3 to conclude Angra-2. "It will certainly be controversial," said Flores, adding: "I have defended the need for Angra-2 as a way to consolidate the effort we made to train our human resources." He said this during the opening of the Fifth General Nuclear Energy Congress, sponsored by the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Association (ABEN). Flores said Brazil is experiencing a "serious crisis of resources" in the nuclear field but he asserted that the problem can be overcome. The lack of resources, he said, affects all the institutes of the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN), especially the Navy-run Coordinating Center for Special Projects (Copesp) in Sao Paulo.

Nuclear Agreement With Argentina Discussed

PY3008224294 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2006 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 29 Aug (AE)—Strategic Affairs Secretary (SAE) Admiral Mario Cesar Flores said here today that Brazil and Argentina can develop joint nuclear technology. "Together we can obtain funds," Flores said. Regarding the nuclear restrictions on Brazil, Flores said he now believes the formal and informal—"under-the-table"—restrictions have been resolved. He said: "The first step was achieved when we completed very favorable negotiations with Argentina which exorcised the ghosts of the past."

Regarding general and broader restrictions, Flores said the four-party agreement "with all its pros and cons will help to reduce international resistance" to nuclear development in Brazil. The agreement was signed in March among Brazil, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Argentina, and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC). It foresees the inspection of nuclear military installations.

In spite of signing the four-party agreement, Flores clearly established that Brazil continues to suffer restrictions from developed countries in the nuclear field. Without mentioning names, he said it is a problem because some restrictions are "rationally founded on the improper use" of nuclear energy which stems from when this technology was first used back in the 1940's. This mentality, he said, "is maintained by those who master nuclear technology and who seek to prevent those who do not have it from ever mastering it." Flores added: "If the government could make the Brazilian people understand the advantage of mastering nuclear technology, the other obstacle (the lack of funds) could be overcome because Brazil will not live eternally with its current difficulties."

Flores said: "There is evidence of international resistance, but not too much yet." He did not explain the meaning of "too much," although he may have referred to the fact that the restrictions have yet not affected other national sectors. He said: "It is necessary to improve the transfer issue and the use of equipment—especially the transfer of knowledge through training—so we can obtain real results from the four-party agreement."

He said Brazil is "well prepared" to use nuclear energy, adding: "We have the knowledge, which is still not complete, but it is quite advanced; a reasonable industrial base, raw material (uranium), but temporarily we do not have funds. This does not mean that we will never have them, as long as there is a national desire for nuclear energy," he added.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Visits To Discuss Trade

PY3108025394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2258 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Brasilia, 30 Aug (EFE)—The Brazilian Government today accepted an Ecuadoran proposal to examine the restriction that Brazil imposed on Ecuadoran bananas, diplomatic sources have reported.

The proposal was made during a meeting between Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes and his Brazilian counterpart Celso Amorim, in the Brazilian capital, during which they addressed bilateral trade issues.

Based on the Ecuadoran proposal, Brazil decided to send a technical mission to Ecuador in the near future to check the treatment and attention given to bananas in Ecuador, the world's largest banana producer.

The foreign ministers also addressed the Ecuadoran tuna quota bought by the Brazilian market, for the purpose of its possible elimination, in keeping with Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) regulations, the sources said.

The visitor and his entourage gave assurances to the Brazilian side that Ecuador applies strict technical measures for the production of bananas, especially for sanitary protection.

Two months ago, Brazil banned banana purchases from Ecuador and Central American countries, where the black sigakota plague was detected, claiming that the restriction seeks to protect Brazilian plantations from the plague.

Ecuadoran Agriculture Minister Mariano Gonzalez, however, considers the Brazilian measure to be "a protectionist evasion."

Minister Paredes today also met with Brazilian Minister of Finance Rubens Ricupero and Minister of Transportation General Rubem Bayma Denys.

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Paredes and Amorim signed a protocol of intent to develop the "Inter-Oceanic Route" joining the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans through the Amazonas basin and through rivers and canals in both countries.

The protocol noted the importance of effective communications between the territories of the two countries because of the economic, commercial, and social benefits for Brazil and Ecuador, and for other Amazonas basin nations.

Considering that Brazil and Ecuador have no common border, the project will possibly be developed with the participation of a third country, either Peru or Colombia.

The foreign ministers decided that in Brasilia next month several governmental delegations will debate the technical and financial conditions that will permit the start of construction of the missing highway stretches between "La Bonita" and "Lumbaque," and between "Tipisca" and "Puerto El Carmen de Putumayo" in Ecuador.

These stretches will connect with the Amazon River, a major Brazilian river flowing into the Atlantic Ocean.

On 31 August in Brasilia, the Ecuadoran foreign minister will attend a meeting between the "troika" of the Rio Group, Latin America's main negotiation forum, and Japanese Foreign Minister Johei Kono.

The meeting will seek to strengthen economic relations between Latin America and Japan.

The Rio Group "troika" is made up Paredes, Amorim, and their Chilean counterpart Carlos Figueroa.

Chile

Figueroa: Lima Accord Not Open to Renegotiation

PY3008175694 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Aug 94

[All names identified by screen caption]

[Excerpts] Peruvian political sectors have indicated that the withrawal of the Lima Convention from Congress only means that its approval has been delayed. The following is a report from Lima by Roxana Altuna.

[Begin recording] [Altuna] In Peru, both Congress and the Executive Branch have reasserted their intention to successfully fulfill the negotiations undertaken with Chile for a definitive approval of the Lima Convention.

[Democratic Constituent Congress, CCD, Vice President Victor Joy Way] There are two important issues here. First, those issues pertaining to national interests are not subject to pressure by any timetables. Second, whatever is achieved here, whatever is agreed upon, and whatever is approved by Congress in compliance with the Constitution will have to be the result of a consensus. This is our position.

[Altuna] In this regard, CCD Vice President Victor Joy Way expressed his hope that the Chilean Government will consider the suggestions made by Peru. Moreover, the opposition has criticized the manner in which the Fujimori adminsitration has handled the issue. [passage omitted]

[Altuna] According to reputed opposition specialists and opposition legislators, this has become a political and not a legal issue because 1994 is an election year in Peru. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa has categorically stated that Chile will not renegotiate the terms of the Lima Convention, which is intended to resolve pending problems in the 1929 border treaty between Chile and Peru. A debate has ensued in view of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's recent decision to withdraw the Lima Convention from congress.

Moreover, Jorge Pizarro, president of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, has said that this decision was taken because of electoral reasons.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Fujimori guaranteed that he would do everything in his power so that Congress, where he enjoys an ample majority, would ratify the agreement. [passage omitted]

This is why the Chilean Government has voiced its surprise. Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa expressed the hope that this is nothing more than a delay to allow Peru to achieve a consensus.

[Figueroa] No, we are not willing to renegotiate the Lima Convention because as we have already stated, we believe it amply meets Chilean interests and complies with what is established in the 1929 treaty. What we are saying is that we are open to dialogue and to the good will of both sides to achieve the approval of this convention.

[Reporter] Carlos Martinez Sotomayor, the Chilean ambasador to Lima [name as heard], has been summoned to Chile to provide information on the issue. At any rate, Figueroa said that what is important is for the agreement to be ratified, no matter when.

Jorge Pizarro, president of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee and president of the Chilean-Peruvian Binational Legislative Committee, went to the Foreign Ministry to obtain information on the issue.

Not being obliged to strictly adhere to diplomatic protocol, Pizarro clearly stated that Fujimori's decision is simply due to electoral reasons in view of the upcoming Peruvian presidential elections.

According to Pizarro, Fujimori's rival, Javier Perez de Cuellar, has already used the Chilean-Peruvian ties issue in his campaign.

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[Pizarro] I believe that Perez de Cuellar and President Fujimori may resort to something that can have a very negative effect on our bilateral ties, that is, to use a kind of anti-Chilean campaign to obtain votes, or increase support for their political interests.

[Reporter] Pizarro expressed regret that the Peruvian domestic political situation may harm Chilean-Peruvian ties precisely at a time when they are at the best level in history. [end recording]

Frei, Argentina's Menem Sign Joint Declaration

PY3008184194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0002 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Santiago, 26 Aug (EFE)—The presidents of Chile and Argentina, Eduardo Frei and Carlos Menem respectively, ratified today their commitment to improve all the border passes between their two countries through public, private, and international financing.

In a joint 21-point declaration signed in Santiago after Menem concluded his two-day visit, the two presidents "agreed on the need to strengthen the effective mechanisms for the preservation and consolidation of the democratic regimes of our continent."

President Frei "renewed Chile's support for the Argentine claim over the Malvinas, and the South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, and the nearby maritime areas by emphasizing that the solution of the dispute over the sovereignty of those territories is a question of permanent hemispheric interest."

The two presidents, who signed the "Act of Physical Integration," decided to ratify the commitments made in the so-called General Master Plan for Priority Border Passes, which include the Jama, Sico, San Francisco, Agua Negra, Sistema del Cristo Redentor, Pehuenche, Pino Hachado, Cardenal Samore, Coyhaique, Huemules, Integracion Austral, and San Sebastian passes based on the updating of this plan established in August 1994.

They also decided "to make the necessary investments to develop the Bioceanic Corridor of the North through the Sico and Jama passes by urgently improving the Jama pass to enable it to accommodate the traffic of heavy trucks to link the Atlantic with the Pacific."

The two presidents also agreed "to conclude in 1995 the studies to build the Low Ceiling Tunnel in order for the two governments to decide its construction the same year based on the agreement established in the Memorandum of Understanding on Physical Integration and Border Facilities of 2 August 1991."

The Low Ceiling Tunnel will replace the current tunnel under the Cristo Redentor in the Andes mountains that links Los Andes, Chile, with Mendoza, Argentina.

Also "a feasibility study for a railroad link between Zapala (Argentina) and Lonquimay (Chile) will be made taking into account the fact that if the project is built, it will be made through a public work concession without guarantee, endorsement, or subsidy from the states."

In the joint declaration the two presidents recognized "as highly positive the current fluid system of consultations between the two foreign ministries, as it has helped in reaching common positions on issues of mutual interest and for maintaining permanent dialogue which is very useful for the development of bilateral relations."

"The two presidents also reiterated their satisfaction over the development of the arbitration process for marking the border between Border Mark 62 and the Fitz Roy mountain that leads to the conclusion of the process stages formally established in the 1991 Arbitration Commitment."

The two presidents also expressed "their satisfaction over the increase in trade, making Argentina the third largest Chilean trade partner and the first among the Latin American countries."

Regarding social issues, Frei and Menem decided to instruct the appropriate sectors of their respective governments to draw up a joint plan "of concrete actions to effectively implement the social agreements signed by the two countries, especially those in the health and labor areas, in order to become a real benefit for Chileans and Argentines, leading to the free movement of people."

Villarzu Details Codelco's Strategic Goals

94SM0445A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Jul 94 p A2

[Editorial by Juan Villarzu Rohde, executive vice president of Chile's Copper Corporation, Codelco, entitled, "Codelco: Myths and Facts"]

[Text] Starting with the regrettable and repudiated losses in futures markets, public opinion is following with close attention the operations and challenges facing our company. One positive aspect of that is that Codelco is no longer a matter of debate and public scrutiny. On the other hand, there is a negative aspect in that in the current debate ideological considerations and caricatures are winning out over reality and the national interest. Reducing the discussion to the alternatives of privatization or a crisis—as intended by those opposed to the proposal for modernization raised by the company—is a great error, in addition to being an oversimplification.

There are two principal arguments for privatization: (1) Codelco is a company which faces a crisis, and (2) the crisis is an inevitable consequence of the fact that Codelco is a state owned company and, therefore, this situation cannot be remedied. Neither of these arguments has any empirical support.

I am convinced that Codelco is not a company facing a crisis. The figures speak for themselves. Over the last 10 years the company has paid to the tax authorities, in

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current values, the equivalent of $15 billion. Its profits, before taxes, have been more than 20 percent, on the average, of its assets. Codelco is the most profitable copper producing company in the world. In 1993, despite a low price for copper and the losses suffered in futures market operations, without any physical support, and with charges deducted from important assets, it had profits, before taxes, of $162 million.

The smaller profits made during the last few years are fundamentally explained by the fall in the price of copper. That is, a factor not the fault of the company management. When the price recovers, as is already taking place, profits will return to normal levels and the principal argument now used to describe in graphic terms a future crisis in the company will disappear. This is so clear that, assuming an average price for copper of US100 cents/lb in 1994, pre-tax profits will exceed $800 million, not taking into account profits obtained from the successful negotiation of arrangements covering the El Abra field.

No one ignores the fact that for many years Codelco has dealt with difficulties of various kinds due to a loss of competitiveness. Nevertheless, this circumstance can be reversed, as, in fact, has been proved over the last few years, during which the rising trend of total costs and expenditures has been halted, productivity has increased, and absenteeism and accident indices have been reduced.

We have committed ourselves to repositioning Codelco as one of the lowest cost producers in the world. With that in mind we embarked on a broad, modernizing effort whose strategic lines are the following:

- (1) Building a new relationship between company and workers, based on confidence and participation and aimed at reversing the negative attitude of the workers toward a change, instead making them into active employees of the company.
- (2) Overcoming management shortcomings and institutional inadequacies which affect the company. In part we will do this through a draft law which was recently sent to Congress.
- (3) Making the minimum investments necessary to ensure the long term viability of the company and to maximize the generation of profits by the present mining divisions and the replacement deposits.
- (4) Promoting cooperation with third parties for the exploration and exploitation of undefined, replacement deposits and the development of lines of economic activity complementary to the business.

This effort at modernization will be reflected in an increase in production and in a substantial reduction in costs. In 1999 the state subsidiaries of Codelco will be producing somewhat more than 1.4 million metric tons of fine copper per year at a maximum total cost of US60 cents/lb (in terms of today's money). This means that at a price of US100 cents/lb pre-tax profits of Codelco will rise to at least $1.3 billion in 1999. It is clear that there is no alternative source of financing equal to that of the state. That is why we are convinced that our proposal for modernization is the best option for the national interest.

The true challenge is to join forces to exploit the rich property assets of Codelco as efficiently as possible and thereby maximize the generation of profits for the state. In our view that will be achieved:

- (1) By concentrating human and financial resources available to Codelco by ensuring the long term viability of its principal business: the efficient exploitation of its present and future deposits.
- (2) By actively bringing the private sector, both domestic and foreign, into the development of business complementary to our main activity and the exploitation and development of the rest of the deposits belonging to the corporation.

The Tocopilla thermoelectric generator, the Talleres smelting and metal working facility, the Los Lirios lime plant, and the 1.2 million hectares of mining land not considered to contain significant, potential ore provide a very broad range of investment opportunities for the private sector. As of this date nine exploration and development associations have been entered into with foreign investors, valued at almost $80 million. We hope that some of these associations will give birth to new projects in turn, such as El Abra. How many new "Abra" projects will we be able to develop, on the basis of a joint effort at exploration in the 1.2 million hectares of mining land referred to previously? We should not lose sight of the fact that this land amounts to 10 percent of the mining property registered in Chile and that it covers the most promising, geological areas.

If all of these investment possibilities are open to the private sector, how much sense does it make to insist on the total or partial privatization of the deposits presently being worked and future deposits? The logical thing to do is to have Codelco make use of its strong points by making its present mining operations more competitive, ensuring their viability over the long term, and seeking the participation of third parties in moving forward with all other possible lines of business. Moreover, the company is in a position simultaneously to turn over to the state 100 percent of the profits which it makes and to finance completely the investment needs associated with consolidating its principal form of business, using internally generated funds and a minimum of indebtedness. Therefore, our proposal is to consider financing the most profitable Codelco investment projects. This would not mean diverting resources intended for other, priority government programs.

In 1980 Chile produced 1.2 million metric tons of fine copper annually, of which Codelco provided 1.0 million metric tons, or something more than 80 percent. Projections for the year 2000 indicate that Chile will produce about 3.9 million metric tons of copper, of which Codelco will produce about 1.5 million metric tons,

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including its participation in El Abra. By that time the participation of Codelco will have fallen to 38 percent, and private producers will have increased their production by 12 times, going from 200,000 metric tons in 1980 to 2.4 million metric tons in the year 2000.

By the end of the twentieth century Chile will produce 35 percent of the copper consumed in the world. Unfortunately, the great dynamism shown by the copper industry in Chile has not regarded the Chilean private businessman as its ideal. The modernization of Codelco is a great opportunity opening up for the national private sector through the growth and consolidation of the company which brings the most to the development of the country.

Colombia

Becerra Responds to SEMANA Article

94CA0166A Santa Fe de Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 19 Jul 94 p 5

[Letter by former Comptroller General Manuel Francisco Becerra Barney to the editor of SEMANA magazine]

[Text] The most basic standard of journalism ethics is that when a person who could be affected by a story is consulted about it prior to publication, space should be allotted for that person's explanations. Unfortunately, that was not done in your issue number 636. I know that you will not treat me the same way, so I will sum up my comments here: I was elected at the Shareholders Assembly as an alternate member of the Board of Directors of the America Soccer Club of Cali in 1983. I own share number 127, which was given to me by Mr. Ricardo Leon Ocampo, at that time manager of the Bank of Colombia in Cali for more than 25 years and a majority shareholder in the team.

Aware of the problems that had begun in soccer, we and other leaders launched certain reforms, such as the rule prohibiting private parties from exercising the right to transfer players. In addition, in Congress I pushed through legislation imposing a limit of 20 percent on the number of shares anyone can own in a sports club.

As minister of education, in 1989 I suspended a soccer tournament for the first time in history. I established the so-called Commission of Soccer Notables, which produced the document that made it possible to eliminate the Dimayor from the referee office.

My position on drug trafficking has been unequivocal. On 18 August 1989, I was a member of the Council of Ministers when we approved the reinstatement of extradition. I was the one who proposed that it be signed by all the ministers and not just the justice minister, as was traditional. For this reason, all extraditions, including that of a brother of an America board member, bear my signature.

I have spoken out in various forums and in articles in the national and international press to oppose the legalization of drugs, because I consider it as absurd as legalizing suicide. Over a period of nearly 15 years in public life, as secretary of the interior of Cali, secretary of education of Valle, governor of Valle, minister of education, and comptroller general of the republic, I have never been implicated in any immoral affair. I have fought corruption, and I am proud to be recognized as a man who leads a modest life.

Last week, on CARACOL, I advocated harsh measures such as those that I adopted in 1989 to clear up once and for all the problems plaguing soccer, with a thorough investigation, not a whitewash.

You and your family, who have been constant victims of malicious acts by your enemies, know that if there were any proof at all of the vicious rumors that my adversaries have been spreading about my ties with America, my public life would have been destroyed years ago; and if I have attained high public office subsequent to my involvement in sports, it is because, as Seneca says, "calumny is countered with facts."

Ecuador

Ω Status of Illegal Colombians in Country Highlighted

94P21142A

[Editorial Report] The situation of Colombian immigrants in Ecuador is "not rosy," according to an article in Quito EL COMERCIO of 3 August. Referring to figures provided by the National Institute of Statistics and the Census (INEC) and the National Police, the article states that 1.188 million Colombians have entered Ecuador since 1984, whereas only 208,470 have returned to Colombia. This puts the total population of Colombians in Ecuador at 979,815; of this number, 70,000 are in the country illegally and "living in deplorable conditions." The article asserts that illegal Colombians in Ecuador "generate urban, social, labor, and economic conflicts because the country is not prepared to receive them on a permanent basis." Although "a small number" of immigrants, for the most part professionals, manage to find good jobs and integrate successfully, many "cross the threshold of failure" and end up among the ranks of "underemployed, socially marginalized, and delinquents." They are also potential victims of human rights abuses by the police and immigration officials, according to EL COMERCIO.

Colombians view Ecuador as a country with "more stability and better job opportunities" in spite of its being more underdeveloped than its neighbor, states the article. Fleeing drug trafficking or guerrilla-related violence, it continues, Colombian immigrants choose the Ecuadoran border provinces of Carchi, Sucumbios, and Esmeraldas as their main destinations; other favored destinations are Santo Domingo de los Colorados, with

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its good-sized Colombian community, and, to a lesser extent, Ouito and Guayaquil. Most of the Colombians working in the border provinces are engaged in agriculture and receive less remuneration than their Ecuadoran counterparts. According to the daily, in Sucumbios Province alone there are 7,000 poor farmers who fled their homes in central and southwestern Colombia, particularly Putumayo Department, because they refused to cultivate coca in exchange for drug trafficker protection.

Colombians in Ecuador who are considered "political refugees" mainly consist of family groups of young students and professionals with origins in urban areas. According to the article, in the last few years Ecuador received 242 applications for asylum, of which 113 were accepted in 1994. Other immigrants include "temporary workers" and "informal businessmen," who return to Colombia after a while, and those who are in transit, awaiting immigration to a third country.

The article observes that, although most Colombians immigrate to Ecuador "to make an honest living," because of their undocumented status and low-profile lifestyle, they are the first to be suspected of involvement in drug trafficking, guerrilla activities, theft, and prostitution. In fact, Colombians represent 5 percent of Ecuador's jail population. Statistics from the Foreign Affairs Ministry reveal that 82 percent—408 of a total of 496 Colombian detainees—are imprisoned for drug trafficking. Theft and homicide follow at a distant second (7 percent) and third (3 percent). Other offenses represent only 8 percent of crimes committed by Colombians in Ecuador. However, diplomatic sources have explained, these Colombian detainees are not immigrants but "temporary visitors who have entered Ecuador solely for criminal purposes."

The need to alleviate the situation of illegal immigrants in their respective countries has been recognized by the Colombian and Ecuadoran governments since 1977, when a series of agreements was signed to facilitate the transit of persons and vehicles, EL COMERCIO observes. This open border policy, which includes the sharing of information and cooperation by the police of both countries, guarantees better control of "dangerous undesirables, international criminals, drug traffickers, and terrorists" who may attempt to cross the border. Another intergovernmental agreement, involving the repatriation of detainees to their respective countries on "humanitarian grounds," was signed on 29 July by the president of the Ecuadoran Supreme Court, Francisco Acosta, and the Colombian ambassador to Ecuador, Gustavo Castro, according to EL COMERCIO. A draft immigration accord is under review to change the illegal status of undocumented residents in Ecuador. It would include an "amnesty process," allowing illegals to apply for a Social Security document that would later serve as proof of their legal status. The article points out, however, the unlikelihood that illegal Colombians will conquer their fears and take the necessary steps to apply for this document. (ENDALL) ELAG/LAD/RAY/POLCHF/ECONF/TDDF

Paraguay

Warning on Preparations for 'New Attack' Cited

PY3008134794 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 30 Aug 94 p 12

[Arabic names as published]

[Text] Three Arab Islamic terrorists have allegedly entered the country with false documents, which were presumably prepared here, to transport explosives to Buenos Aires for a new attack on 3 September. Interpol and the Israeli secret service sent warning messages and asked the National Police to investigate. The terrorists' contact is allegedly living in Alto Parana.

The confidential report says that the alleged terrorists will presumably use the identities of Hashem Abboud, born between 1959 and 1962, dark skinned, wearing a beard, and 1.72 meters tall; Ali Salim, presumably born in 1969, approximately 1.65 meters tall, slim, and dark skinned; and Hassan Shihadah, presumably born in 1969, blonde, and wearing a beard.

The three alleged terrorists had presumably flown from Spain after stopovers in Hungary and Germany. They allegedly arrived in Rio de Janeiro or Sao Paulo and first traveled to Foz do Iguacu or Asuncion before going to Ciudad del Este.

The secret services of Israel and other countries in the East sent, through Interpol, a highly confidential report to the Argentine security services and the Paraguayan branch of Interpol, saying that on 27 August three alleged terrorists traveled to Paraguay to meet with their contact in Ciudad del Este.

This contact, also a member of a fundamentalist Islamic religious sect, was supposed to deliver explosives to be carried to Buenos Aires. We must recall that in the past two years, we experienced the explosion of two powerful bombs that killed many people, injured hundreds, and caused considerable damage to buildings.

The attacks were made against Jewish buildings in Buenos Aires. The Argentine security services have directed their attention to Ciudad del Este ever since.

Immediate Investigation

The National Police, upon receiving the information, ordered the Criminal Investigation Department and the Intelligence Department to investigate immediately.

Lists of guests in hotels in Asuncion and other towns, particularly those in Alto Parana, are being compared with the lists of airport passengers. Interurban and tourist transports are also checking their passenger lists looking for alleged terrorists.

Local police authorities and chiefs of police of various Argentine cities dined together at the restaurant "La Pergola Jardin" last night, but refused to comment on

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the matter. Our source said, however, that the Argentine officers asked about the issue during the meal following a request apparently made by Argentine President Carlos Menem.

Peru

'Important' Drug Trafficker Captured in Lima

PY3008211094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0247 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Lima, 26 Aug (EFE)—The Peruvian Police today captured a drug trafficker considered the "righthand man" of Demetrio Chavez Penaherrera, alias "Vaticano," the biggest trafficker in the country who was arrested early this year and who is serving a 30-year sentence.

Police sources have reported that Juan Leguia Manzur, alias "Nino," 29, was captured at a house in the San Borja District of Lima along with his deputy Juan Asile Saavedra.

The sources said Leguia is considered one of the seven most important traffickers in Peru. He is believed to be a contact for the Colombian Cali "cartel."

The police confirmed that he was wanted for drug trafficking and money "laundering."

"Vaticano" was operating in the coca growing jungle region of Huallaga until he was captured on 28 February in Cali and brought the same day to Peru as part of a coordinated operation between the police of the two countries.

A military court sentenced Chavez to 30 years for terrorist activities after he was found guilty of providing money and weapons to the Maoist Shining Path organization. The judicial branch is currently trying him for drug trafficking.

Poll Shows Support for Fujimori Despite Marital Problems

PY3108014894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2138 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Lima, 28 Aug (EFE)—According to a poll disclosed in Lima today, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has the support of 67 percent of the Peruvian people despite his current marital and political problems with his wife.

The poll giving this percentage to Fujimori was carried out by the private Apoyo company for a television political program to measure the effect that the presidential couple's problem has on the president's image.

The poll indicates that 36 percent feel that President Fujimori is right about his problem with his wife, while 31 percent support Susana Higuchi de Fujimori. However, 52 percent believe that Higuchi is right about the need to annul the law that prohibits the president's spouse and relatives to the fourth level of blood relation from becoming presidential or congressional candidates in the 9 April 1995 general elections.

According to the poll, 36 percent believe that the real reason for the marital problems is the political aspirations of Susana Higuchi. According to comments reiterated by Congressman Rafael Rey, which were denied by Higuchi, Fujimori's wife wanted to become presidential candidate. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

President on Economic, Industrial Progress

PY3008195694 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 19 Aug 94 p 1, 7

[Text] President Luis Alberto Lacalle on 18 August replied to a speech on competitiveness and state reform by the Uruguayan Chamber of Industries [CIU] president [Jacinto Muxi]. Lacalle said: "Just so we know who is responsible, I want to make sure that when people talk about the state, they understand that political power has two facets: the executive branch, and the legislative branch. I speak on behalf of the former when I clearly say that this executive branch—which publicly promised to carry out reforms before being elected—has tried to implement its mandate, and has succeeded in areas over which it had sole responsibility."

Lacalle was obviously trying to shift the responsibility onto the opposition. This he further clarified when he added that the executive branch "had to depend on other sectors to implement the reform. I will not judge them, but a distinction must be made. We have done everything we could: We renegotiated the foreign debt; organized the Pronade [National Debureaucratization Program]; and submitted bills. Some of these bills have been approved, like the one on the port of Montevideo which is now working much better than it has for many years. This is proof that major undertakings can be carried out if there is a joint effort."

Lacalle spoke during the opening ceremony of the Promoexport [expansion unknown] fair at the headquarters of Latu [Technological Laboratory of Uruguay]. He answered criticism from several sectors by stating that statistics should not be evaluated separately but rather as a whole. He stressed that exports of goods and services increased by 26.1 percent between 1989 and 1993.

Lacalle also talked about imports, indicating that Uruguay purchased $383 million worth of capital assets in 1993, adding that these assets are being used to produce more with much less manpower. He explained that industrial jobs have been lost through the technological renovation which has led to increased productivity. He indicated that 50,000 jobs have been created in other sectors to absorb those leaving industrial jobs.

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Refuting criticism from several sectors, the president stressed that exports increased by 26.1 percent between 1989 and 1993 and that this figure includes goods and services, "in other words, everything the country exports."

Lacalle said: "This is the right time to comment on the true situation of our exports. We must point out that even if these figures are currently being twisted to fit current circumstances, exports have increased overall and in certain specific areas during this administration. Such is the case of nontraditional exports on which climate and international prices do not exert as much influence as on traditional exports."

In his speech during the Promoexport opening ceremony at the Latu headquarters, Lacalle said: "We must bear in mind that people are focusing on values. In other words, although the volume of certain exports may not have declined significantly, we are tied to international prices. This means, for example, that wool exports yield less money because of lower prices. This should be taken into account whenever comparisons are made."

The president emphasized that capital goods constitute a large portion of the country's imports. He said: "Whenever we speak of imports we must point out differences and make distinctions. The imports of capital goods, which increased 144 percent between 1989 and 1993, serves to illustrate my point: Our industries are purchasing the equipment needed for Mercosur [Common Market of the South]."

Lacalle added: "We have not been spending everything at the supermarket. We have not spent everything on imported perishable goods, on consumer goods to be precise.

We imported $383 million worth of capital goods in 1993. You are in the best position to know that this is true; and you also know why. No one invests nearly $400 million in machinery unless they want to make it produce, to gain access to markets, even if at times this implies taking some risks."

Lacalle stated: "When people say we imported products worth $2.3 billion in 1993, one must remember that nearly $400 million was invested in capital goods, while $1 billion was spent on intermediate goods, excluding oil. The figures must be viewed in context, always bearing in mind that exports as a whole have increased by 2.9 percent, with a strong rise in nontraditional products, which increased by 20 percent."

Lacalle added: "The information about exports and imports that has been bandied around for some time must be evaluated in the light of the above-mentioned circumstances, without forgetting that we have an important export item that is difficult to quantify: Tourism, which is our strongest and most important industry."

The president also referred to other "very important" topics including employment, the industrial sector, and productivity. He said: "It is true that industrial employment has declined," but added that "there has been an increase in productivity. These two factors must be evaluated within the framework of a perfectly logical line of reasoning: Industry is being mechanized and is using less manpower to produce more. This is a desirable trend in any industrial progress. There is a third factor which should not be neglected either: Unemployment has decreased; those who leave industrial jobs are being absorbed by other activities."

He said: "More of our people are now working in services, like in developed countries. When people talk about employment and productivity they should consider the overall situation and say, as we can, that during this administration more people were employed than before. We believe we have created 50,000 new jobs to absorb those workers who left industry to join the services market. The overall picture, I repeat, the overall picture shows more are people employed today than when we came to power."

"Someone once said there are three kinds of lies," the president stressed: "Lies, evil lies, and statistics. This is true. When we discuss those issues we must look at the overall picture—not boasting that we live wonderfully or that we live in paradise—but recognizing our achievements, which are, after all, society's achievements."

The president said governments alone cannot create happiness, only the favorable conditions for happiness to flourish. He added: "Society as a whole assumes risks, takes advantage of opportunities, and of course, establishes levels of certainty, security, credibility, and conditions for development. I think we have established conditions for development during the past four and a half years."

Referring directly to the speech by CIU President Jacinto Muxi a few minutes earlier, Lacalle said: "Placing the responsibility where it belongs," the political power has two sides: The legislative branch and the executive branch.

The president said he would talk about the executive branch, which he heads, adding that he "made a public commitment to introduce reforms before he was elected," referring to his 1989 electoral campaign promises. He said: "I have tried to fulfill my promises (...) and I did just that."

The president said he depends on others—referring to the congressional majority he never had during his administration—to pass these reforms. He then listed initiatives and measures adopted by his administration, including the foreign debt renegotiation, the creation of the National De-bureaucratization Program, the Montevideo Port law, and decrees on foreign trade through export documents.

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The president said Congress replied by passing a bill "reestablishing a system we consider inappropriate."

Referring to the social security system, the president said on four occasions the executive branch lacked the votes to pass the initiative.

Directly addressing the CIU president with "My dear Jacinto Muxi Munoz," Lacalle admitted that the state burden on productive activities was heavy, adding that his administration has done everything possible to reorganize the state, but failed for lack of congressional support.

The president concluded by mentioning the latest bills it has sent to Congress on social security debts and ways to pay it, a two-thirds reduction on the tax on the sale of livestock, etc. He praised the inauguration yesterday of the Promoexport center and the recent Mercosur agreements. He said: "We are entering a new world and a new era."

The president concluded: "Welcome, and may it be it in peace and prosperity for all Uruguayans."

Venezuela

U.S. Congress Move on Gasoline Imports Denounced

PA3008192494 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Report by Zaida Pereira from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] There is a Venezuelan saying that fits the United States: Tell me what you brag about, and I will tell you what you lack. The United States is touting freedom and free trade, and yet it wants to prevent our gasoline from being imported.

According to some distinguished members of the Pro-Venezuelan Association, a U.S. senator, acting on behalf of several U.S. oil companies, cut from the U.S. budget an allocation that would permit officials to learn what Venezuela is doing to upgrade the quality of its fuel. The goal is to deprive us of that market, because Venezuela sells 8 million liters of regular gasoline daily. Environmental groups have opposed this kind of gasoline.

Anibal Martinez, a member of the Pro-Venezuela Association Board, has reacted as follows:

[Begin Martinez recording] This is a strategem being employed within the U.S. Congress. I think the first thing we have to do is have the Venezuelan Congress recognize the significance of this move, as well as recognize the need to respond to the U.S. Congress in keeping with its role as the legislature of the sovereign nation of Venezuela.

In this way, people will be made aware of this tactic, and, in turn, the House of Representatives, which ultimately has to approve the EPA's [Environmental Protection Agency's] budget, can take steps to eliminate this rider, thereby enabling EPA officials to come to Venezuela to review the quality of Venezuelan oil. [end recording]

(Ernesto Saval), who is also a member of the Committee To Defend Our Petrochemicals, explained that the source of the problem is the U.S. Congress, not the U.S. Government.

[Begin (Saval) recording] What is happening? We could lose that market because of restrictions they want to impose on Venezuelan oil. The day we are ready to produce a gasoline that we can export—and we are making huge investments to achieve this in Venezuela—we will be arriving too late, because the U.S. market will already be controlled by other competitors. We want to acknowledge the U.S. Government's efforts in defending Venezuela's position. Some individuals in the U.S. Congress are really distorting the situation and acting on false information. [end recording]

The Pro-Venezuela Association representatives also called on the government and the country's influential sectors to speak out on this matter and prevent the U.S. Congress from banning our fuel.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA3108042694

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored through 30 August.

The Venezuelan Government plans to engage in private investments for oil exploration in the amount of $8 billion in the next 10 years, official sources have announced. According to a study by Venezuelan Petroleum (PDVSA), this will promote the production of oil fields which could contain from 7 billion to 23 billion barrels of oil. A preliminary investment of $4 billion will have to be made by interested parties to confirm the existence of these oil fields. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0104 GMT 30 Aug 94)

The Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV) auctioned 347 billion bolivares worth of zero coupon bonds on 24 August. The bonds earn 33.1 percent interest for a maturity rate of 91 days and 39.6 percent interest for a maturity term of 182 days. The yield from the sale of bonds is important, because it gauges the level that can be collected by banking and loan organizations on loans. This level cannot be 15 points above the rates obtained by the bonds in the weekly auctions held by the BCV. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2324 GMT 24 Aug 94)

Venezuelan nontraditional exports for the period of January to July 1994 netted $2.273 million. Compared to the same period of 1993, this represents an increase of 18.2 percent. Of this amount, private sector exports were 65.1 percent, netting $1.480 million, while the public sector was 34.9 percent, obtaining $793 million. The metalmaking sector netted the most with $829.9 million, an increase of 14.8 percent compared with exports over the same period of 1993. (Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 2-5)

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The PDVSA board of directors has reviewed the results of operations by Citgo Petroleum, which is its largest subsidiary abroad, and found that during the first six months of 1994 Citgo reported $80.3 million in profits, which is 77 percent more than the same period of 1993. According to Ron Hall, Citgo President, despite the profits reported thus far this year, oil refining figures dropped in June and July, which could cause profits to go down in subsequent months. (Caracas ECONOMIA HOY in Spanish 25 Aug 94 p 11)

Lagoven has sold 7,400 barrels daily of "bunker" fuel during the first six months of 1994. According to Orlando Sosa, manager of the bunker trade department, Lagoven hopes to sell 8,000 barrels daily of this type of fuel, which would exceed the 6,350 barrels of bunker fuel sold daily in 1993. From January to June, Lagoven obtained a profit margin of $2 per barrel in the sale of this type of fuel. (Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 25 Aug 94 p 16)

The Foreign Exchange Administration Board has defined a new policy for exporters. The new resolution provides exporters a special account with all the dollars they need to meet their commitments. The board's decision is to allow exporters to be able to pay for raw materials or spare parts needed or for costs involved in the supply of goods and services for exportation. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Aug 94)

Alberto Poletto, president of the Foreign Trade Institute, has announced that "Venezuela is making efforts to prevent the U.S. Congress from adopting a negative decision toward high-test gasoline. The U.S. Government will announce its decision on 12 September and, if it is negative, Venezuela will file a claim on 23 September with the GATT." (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Aug 94)

The gasoline price readjustment program will begin by setting the price of 12.85 bolivares per liter for the remaining part of the year and 15.25 bolivares for the coming year. This is applicable to the public transportation sector. In the hydrocarbons readjustment program, a gasoline price increase is contemplated for 1996. It was learned that the government will subsidize the public transportation sector with six bolivares per liter of gasoline, so that the price hike will have a minimal effect on the public. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Aug 94)

It is estimated that Venezuela's economy will register a 4 percent drop, according to official sources. The same sources said it is expected this 4 percent will be picked up in 1995 when an upward trend is anticipated. The economic topic in the government is centered on three basic aspects: increase of gasoline, modification of the social security system, and the myth that all the country's plights have been caused by the fiscal deficit. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Aug 94)

Suriname

President Venetiaan Terms Rebels Request 'Reckless Slogan'

BR3008133394 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 29 Aug 94 pp 1, 3

[Unattributed report: "Brunswijk Rebels Threaten To Resort to Violence"]

[Excerpts] On Friday [26 August] armed rebels crossed the border between French Guyana and east Suriname.

The French Guyana authorities have informed Surinamese President Venetiaan about the action. The rebels are said to be supporters of former rebel leader Brunswijk.

The rebels gathered in the area of Albina and threatened to resort to violence as a protest against the arrest of their leader. Last week, Brunswijk was arrested and detained for shooting a man in Pamaribo. Brunswijk who does not have a gun licence, suspected the man of theft. Since the incident occurred, the rebels have insisted the government was negligent in implementing the peace agreement concluded with them in 1992, which the rebels now want to modify. [passage omitted]

Netherlands-based Eddy Pap, one of Brunswijk's advisers, says the ex-fighters of the rebel Jungle Commando have asked him to come to Suriname in order to act as a mediator. [passage omitted]

President Venetiaan said that he did not intend to invite any Netherlands mediator, and that he would stick to the decision as long as he did not know the adviser's exact intentions. Venetiaan reminded that a commission, comprised among others, of members of the Jungle commando, had been set up to assess the peace agreement implementation. Venetiaan termed the request by the rebels for a new peace agreement "a reckless slogan," serving as an excuse for perpetrating illegal actions. [passage omitted]

Jungle Commando Chief Denies Arrival of French Guyana Troops

BR3008133894 Rotterdam ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD in Dutch 30 Aug p 3

[Unattributed report: "Jungle Commando Denial"]

[Text] Jungle Commando Chief Pot called the announcement that French Guyana-based armed rebels had crossed the border river Marowijne "lies." The French authorities and a Netherlands adviser of the former rebel group said earlier that commando members had gathered south of Albina.

The announcement had caused fears that the civil war would break out once again. Pot does not rule out armed actions: "I hope I can keep the commando under control." The origin of this incident is the arrest of former rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk for shooting someone he suspected of theft.

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